



John 5:1-18

MATS

1 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. **2** Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda^[a] and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. **3** Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. **5** One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” **7** “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” **8** Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” **9** At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, **10** and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed,

“It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.” **11** But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’” **12** So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?” **13** The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. **14** Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” **15** The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well. **16** So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. **17** In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” **18** For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.