

focus

A 21 DAY BIBLE READING PLAN
PREPARING HEARTS FOR EASTER

DAY 5:

The Healing at the Pool

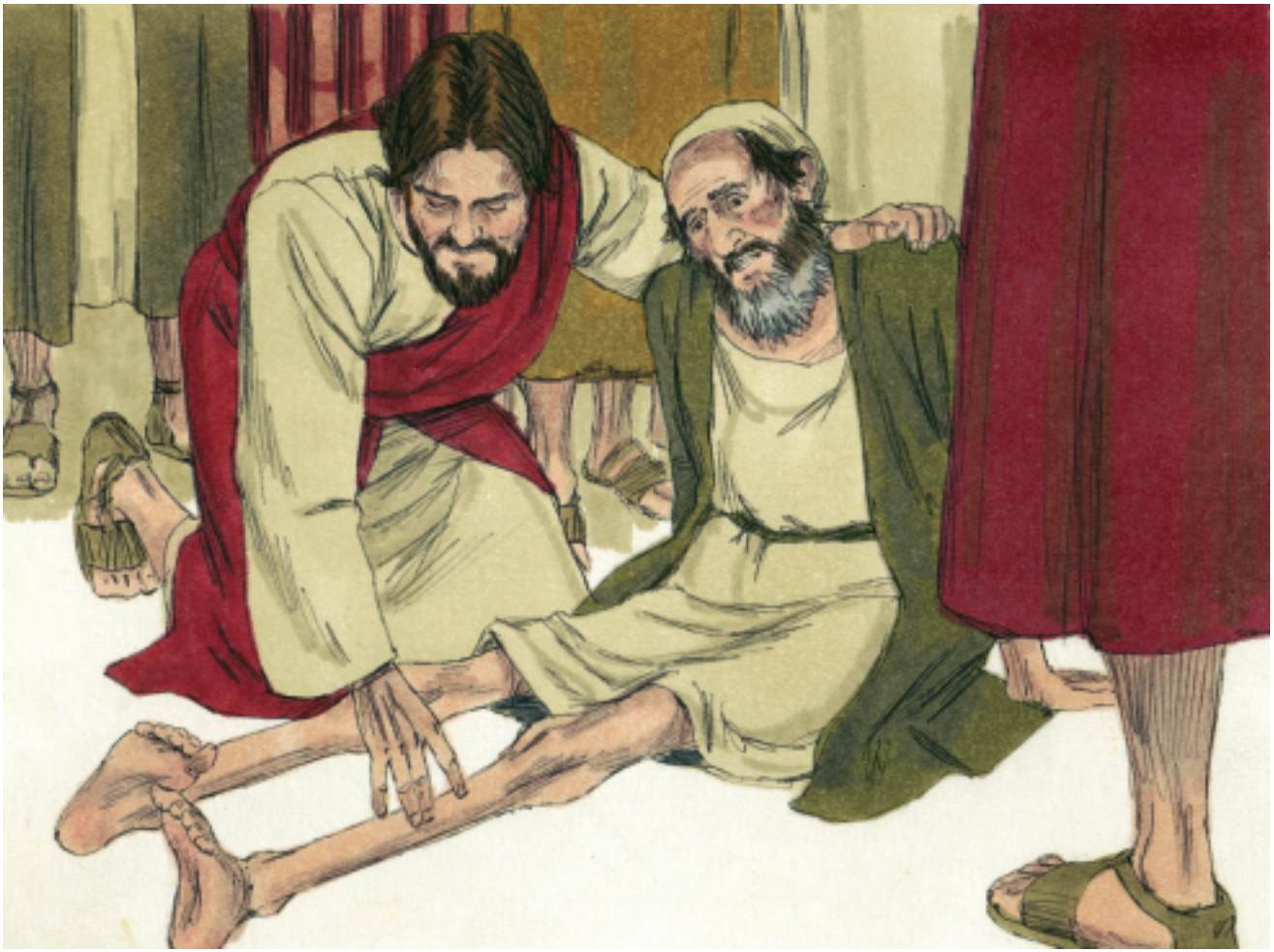
John 5:1-17

One day, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a festival.

Now, in Jerusalem, there is a pool of water called Bethesda, which means “House of Mercy.” The people thought that when the water was stirred (when the wind caused waves or ripples) the first person into the water would be healed.

So many people who were sick, blind, or paralyzed would lie by the pool, waiting for the water to stir.





One man who was there had been disabled for thirty-eight years. This was longer than most people lived! 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?”

“Sir,” the paralyzed man 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.”

Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured! He picked up his mat and walked.

The day that this happened was a Sabbath, and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It’s the Sabbath! You’re not allowed to carry your mat on the Sabbath!”

But the man who had been healed replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

So they asked him, “Who is this man who told you to pick it up and walk?”

But the man who had been healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.



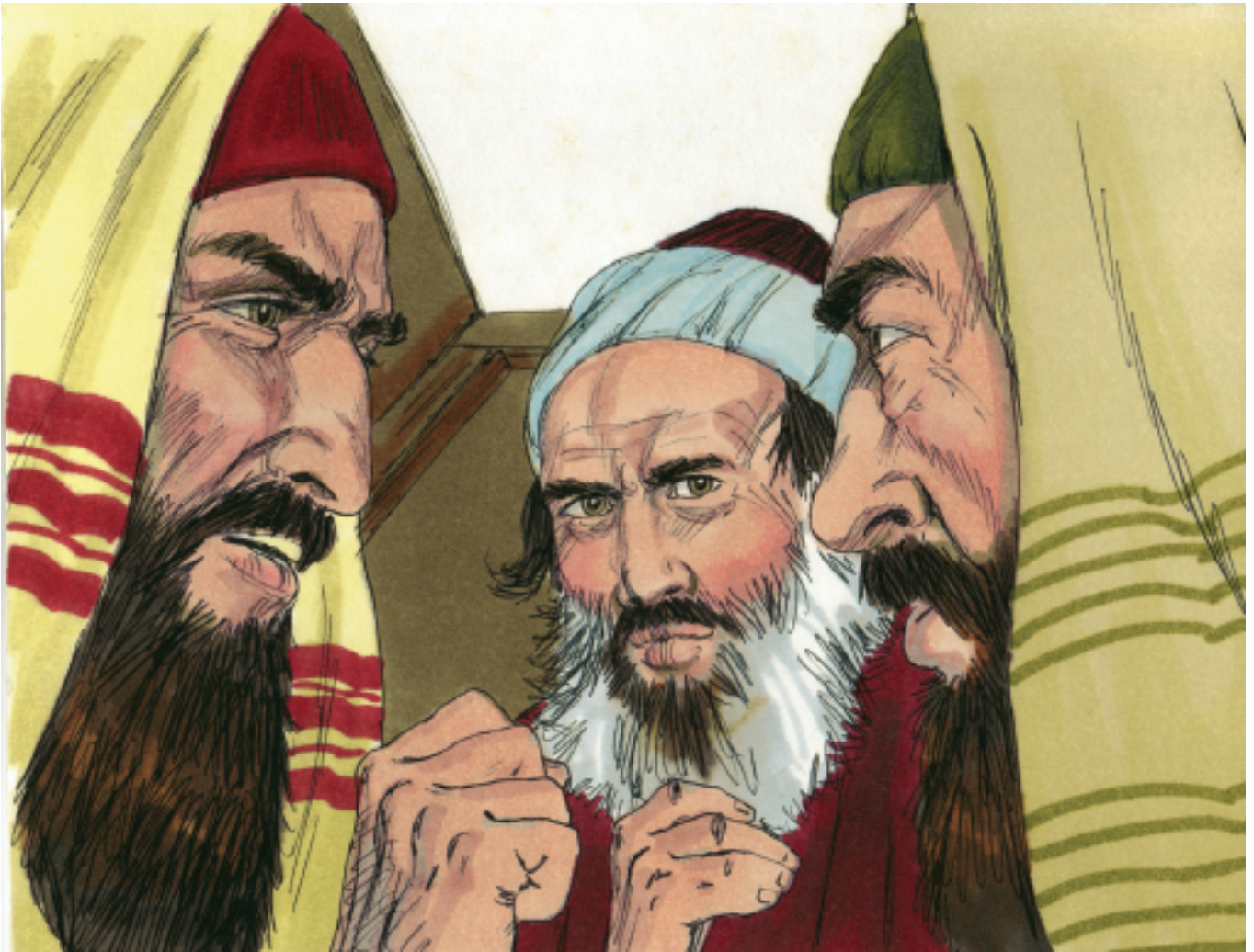
Later, Jesus found the man at the temple and said to him, “See you are well again. Stop sinning, and worship God – because your spiritual life is more important than your physical life.”

Then, the man who had been healed found the Jewish leaders and told them that it was Jesus who had made him well.

The Jewish leaders began to accuse Jesus. “You are sinful, because you are healing people on the Sabbath!”

Jesus answered, “My Father is working, so I am working too.”





For this reason, the Jewish leaders tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making him equal with God.

The Jewish leaders were right about one thing - Jesus was equal with God...he WAS God. And Jesus was trying to show them what honoring the Sabbath meant.

How do you think Jesus wants you to honor the Sabbath?