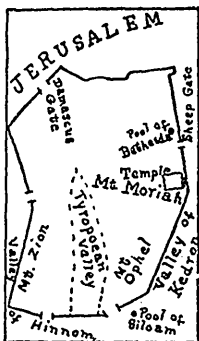


Jesus, strength came into the helpless limbs. **Took up his bed, and walked;** a proof of the man's faith, as well as of the Saviour's power. Jesus not only did him some good, but had made him perfectly well. **Same day . . . the sabbath;** and therefore, according to Jewish ideas, it was wrong both for Jesus to heal and for the man to carry his bed.

As related in vs. 10-16, the Jews promptly find fault with the man for carrying his bed on the Sabbath; but he takes refuge behind the command of his unknown Healer. Afterwards Jesus finds him in the temple, the most appropriate place, surely, for the healed man to be, and warns him to forsake the sin that had caused his sickness. The Jews now know that it is Jesus who has performed the work of healing, and find fault with Him as a Sabbath-breaker. V. 17 gives His answer, and v. 18 tells how the Jews sought to kill Him for claiming to be equal with God.

## THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



In 1888, while some excavations were being made beneath the church of St. Anne, in the northeastern quarter of Jerusalem, a deep reservoir was discovered cut in the rock, with five porches. On the wall is a faded fresco representing an angel and water (see v. 4), which shows that, in early Christian times, this was regarded as the POOL OF BETHSEDA. The site, however, is quite uncertain. The

mentioned in the Lesson refers to the bubbling up of the water at certain intervals. When this occurred the water of the pool was thought to have power to cure diseases. Southeast of the temple in Jerusalem there is the Virgin's Pool, a spring which regularly overflows into a cave. Some think this to be the ancient Bethesda. The "porches" (v. 2) were "covered colonnades or cloisters where people might stand or walk, protected from the weather and the heat of the sun."

**FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS**

1. Why was the sick man at the Pool of Bethesda ?.....
2. What prevented his getting the benefit of its waters ?.....
3. How did he show that he was completely cured ?.....

### LESSON QUESTIONS

Which feast is probably referred to in the Lesson? How long was it after the healing of the nobleman's son?

1-5 Why, probably, did Jesus go up to Jerusalem at this feast? Describe the Pool of Bethesda. What three classes of sick folk are mentioned? Who attracted the special notice of the Saviour? Where is it said that He can save to the uttermost? (Heb. 7: 25.)

6, 7 What question did Jesus ask of the helpless man? What was the purpose of the question? Give the man's answer. When only was there believed to be power to cure in the waters of the pool? Which prophet speaks of "a fountain . . . for sin and for uncleanness"? (Zech. 13: 1) What is meant by this?

8, 9 What did Jesus bid the man do? How did the man show his faith? On what day did the cure take place? Who found fault with the man? On what ground? Where did Jesus afterwards meet him? What warning did He give him? Why did the Jews seek to kill Jesus?

### TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Doing the impossible.
2. True Sabbath-keeping : in what does it consist ?

## A LESSON FOR LIFE

"I never had a chance." So the sick man at the Pool of Bethesda might have said. But his chance came after thirty-eight long years, on the day when Jesus asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" He seized this chance, and rose up a strong, well man. Jesus offers each of us the chance of reaching a true and noble manhood or womanhood. We can blame no one but ourselves, if we let the chance slip by.

**Prove from Scripture—That Christ is God.**

### Shorter Catechism--Review Questions 85-87.

‡ The Question on Missions.—8. What trades are the boys and girls learning? The boys are learning rug-making, cloth-weaving and carpentry at Rasulpura, near Mhow; carpentry and gardening at Dhar; farming and dairying at Amkhut. The girls are learning lace-making and drawn-thread work at Neemuch and Rutlam, and needlework at the widows' home in Indore.