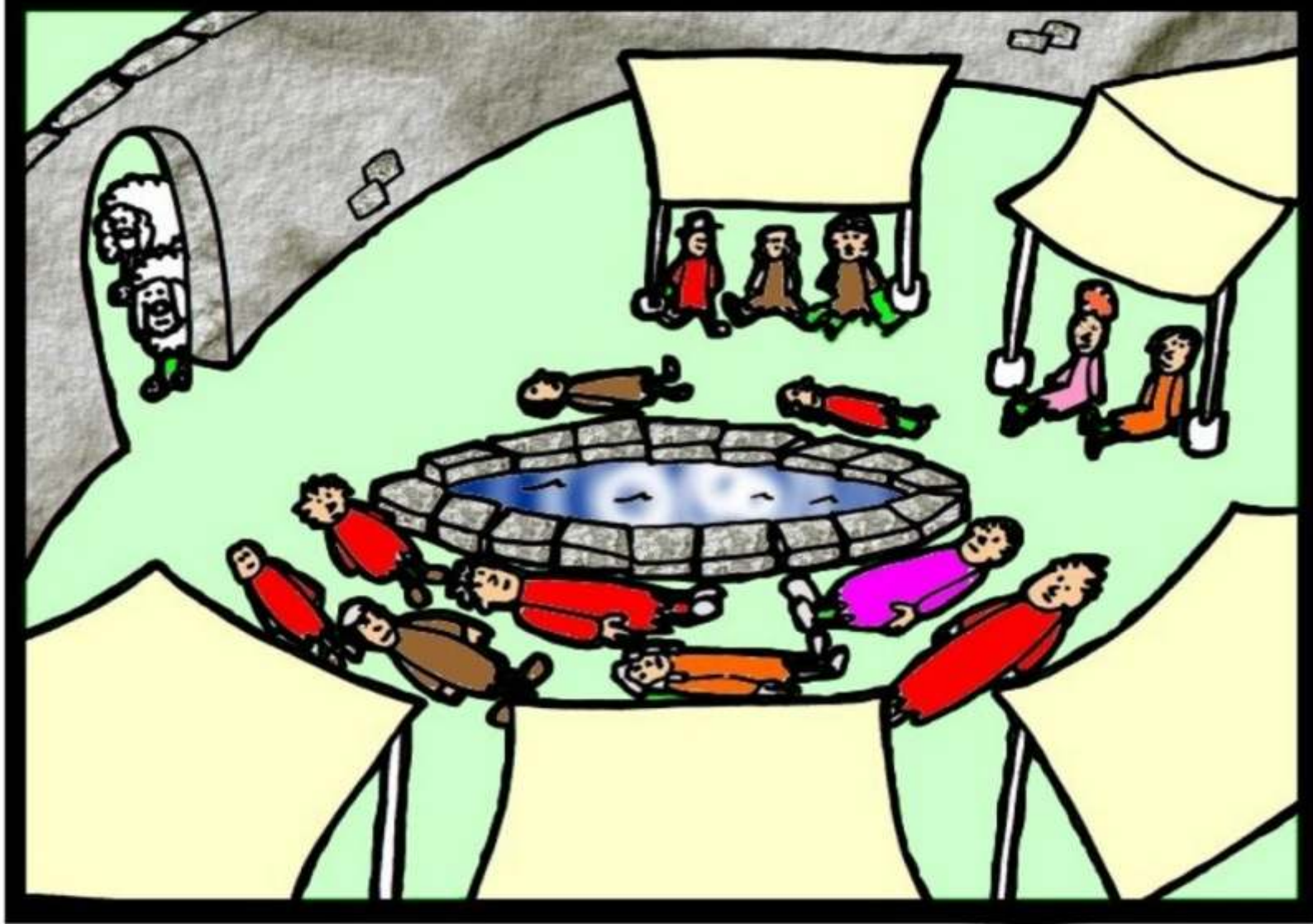


Healing on the Sabbath

(Based on John 5:1-17)

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Jesus went to Jerusalem to attend one of the special feasts. In Jerusalem by the sheep gate is a pool called Bethesda. Around the pool were five porches where many sick, blind and paralyzed people lay. They were waiting for the stirring up of the water.



For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water. Then whoever stepped in first after the water was stirred became healed of their sickness.



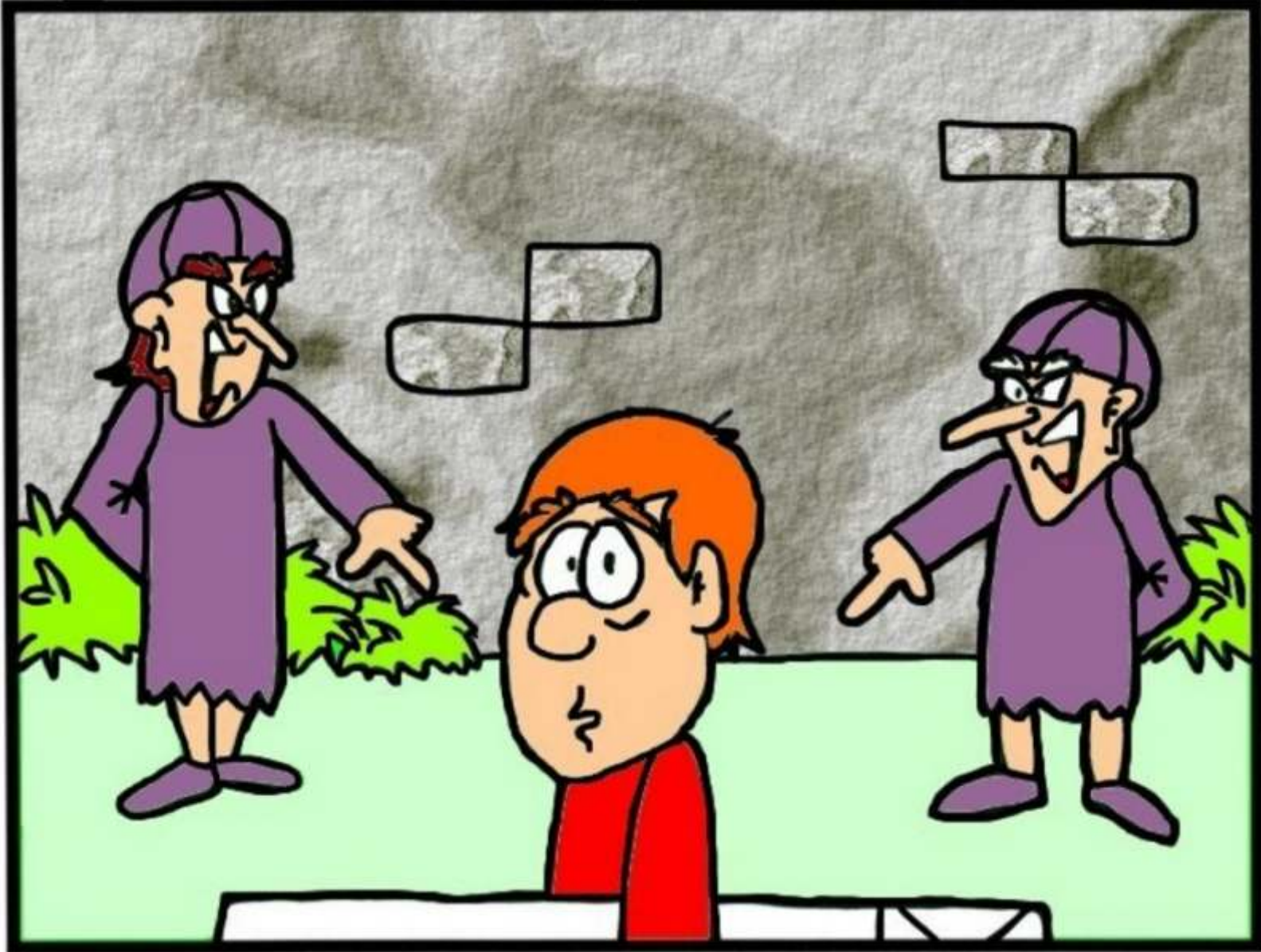
A certain man was there who had been sick for 38 years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew he had been in that terrible shape for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to be healed?"



"Sir I have no one, when the water is stirred up, to put me into the pool, but while I am coming another person steps down into the pool before me." Jesus said to him "Rise, take up your bed and walk."



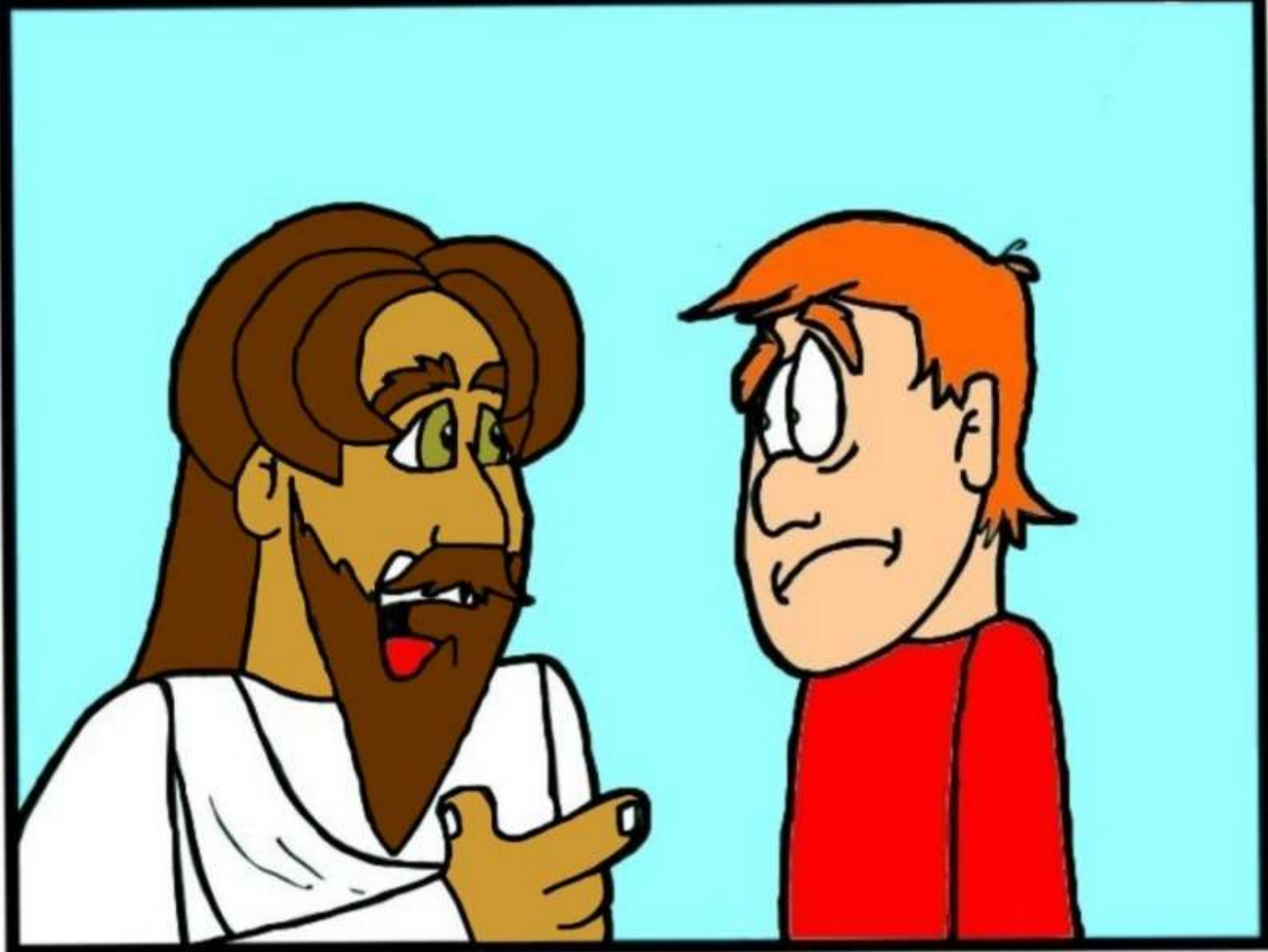
Immediately the man was made well, took up his bed and walked and that day was the Sabbath day.



"It's against the law for you to carry your bed on the Sabbath!" said some phony Pharisees. "The man who made me well, told me to take up my bed and walk," answered the healed man.



"Who made you well?" demanded the Pharisees. "I don't know," said the healed man. "He was here, but I can't find him now because of all the crowds." Jesus had gotten out of sight.



Later Jesus found the man that he healed, in the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Don't do any more bad things so that a worse thing doesn't happen to you."



Then the man left and went and told the Pharisees that it was Jesus who had made him well. For this reason the Pharisees gave Jesus a hard time and wanted to kill him because he had done these things on the Sabbath day.



Lord, help me to keep sin out of my life. Thank you for your forgiveness and blessing on my life.