



Sunday of the Paralytic

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I am grievously paralyzed in a multitude of sins and wrongful deeds. As You raised up the paralytic of old, also raise up my soul by Your divine guidance, that I may cry out, "Glory to Your Power O Compassionate Christ."
(Kontakion)

How would you feel if you were all alone in the world? You were without friends. To make matters even worse, you were paralyzed. Your only hope for salvation was to be placed into a pool of water, when the water was disturbed. This was the life of the Paralytic Man, commemorated on the third Sunday after Easter.

Close to the "Sheep's Gate" in Jerusalem, there existed a pool. This pool was named the Bethesda (Sheep's Pool). The area surrounding the pool had canopies that covered the many ill people that lay beneath, waiting for the waters to be disturbed. What disturbed the waters? It was said that angels hovered over the pool. Periodically their wings would touch the waters, thereby troubling the stillness. It was said when the waters were disturbed, a healing of whatever malady would take place for the first person to enter the water. This paralyzed man had no one to place him in the water when it was disturbed. Someone had no doubt brought him to the pool and left him.

When Jesus came upon the man, he had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. Yet the man

was not upset because of so many that had been cured before him, nor was he depressed about his future. Jesus asked him if he wished to be cured, and the man replied, "Yes, but there is no one to place me in the pool when it is troubled"; an honest reply, with no bitterness or hardness. Jesus took pity on the man when He told him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." The man suddenly stood, picked up his bed and walked in the presence of others; he departed rejoicing.

Jesus performed this miracle during the days of Passover on the Sabbath. The Jews, seeing the healed man carrying his bed, stopped him and said "This is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." The healed man told the Jews that the man who healed him had told him to rise, pick up his bed, and walk. When he was asked who the man was, the healed man could not answer because he didn't know. Later the healed man went to the Temple, where he found Jesus. The Lord told him, "You have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The healed man departed and told the Jews that Jesus had cured him.



This miracle shows that quite often that love is missing from our midst. Love, however, makes us real people because it helps us to find ourselves closer to God and becoming His true children. This paralyzed man had no friend to place him into the pool – not even one compassionate person to take the time to place him into the pool. He was alone until Jesus came by. Jesus was His only friend.

Christ is our friend. He strengthens us, corrects us, supports us, makes us joyous. Christ becomes our friend by His sacrifice on the cross, demonstrating His love for each of us.

FOAM BOARD MOSAIC CROSSES

The project must be worked together as a group. It cannot be kept at home; instead it is a gift for your church. It should reflect each team's effort to work in love and harmony.

MATERIALS

- 1 foam board 20 x 30" per team
- Optional: gold spray paint and drop cloth or newspaper
- Pencil and paper
- Ruler to help draw the design
- Plastic sheeting (dry cleaning bags or heavy-duty trash bags can also work)
- Packing tape
- Colored aquarium gravel, dry beans, or whatever mosaic-sized medium you want to use
- 1 jug school glue per group
- Foam brushes



INSTRUCTIONS

This project is made as a group. If you have a great many youth, add boards and divide the youth into teams by their age or sex, but there must be more than five working on one project.

1. Optional preparation step: If you would like to include a golden Chi Rho (XP) in the center of the cross, go outside to spray paint some of your gravel or beans gold. Allow to dry for at least 1 hour.
2. On the sheet of paper with a pencil, plan a design for your cross. The cross should be in the center of the foam board.
3. As part of the background design around the outside of the cross, each child may add an IXΘΥΣ-shaped fish (the "Jesus fish") to the mosaic to demonstrate their participation in the team effort.



4. Tape down plastic sheeting to protect your work surface.
5. With the help of an adult and a ruler, use a pencil to lightly draw the cross outline and design elements in the center of the board.
6. Spread a generous layer of glue onto a section of the cross design in the center, perhaps about 6 square inches to start.
7. Working as a group, arrange the materials you selected onto the gluey section of your cross. The gravel, beans, etc. should be touching or nearly touching. Once the section of design is finished, add glue to another section and continue until the cross is completed.
8. Once the cross design is complete, add the background on rest of the board. Allow to partially dry.
9. When the design and background are partially dry, pour glue over the entire board to cement the mosaic together. If necessary, use foam brushes to gently guide the glue over the entire design and push any pieces back into place if they get disturbed. Allow the glue to dry overnight.
10. Present the crosses to your church for display, perhaps in classrooms or a common area.



