

Jesus went to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals, and visited the Pool of Bethesda, which also means 'House of Mercy'.

Large numbers of people gathered here because they believed it had healing qualities. One of people there was a man who had been invalid for 38 years.

Jesus asked him...
"Do you want to be healed?"

The man replied that he had no one to help him to the pool when the water stirred, and that someone else always beat him to it.

Then Jesus replied...
"Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

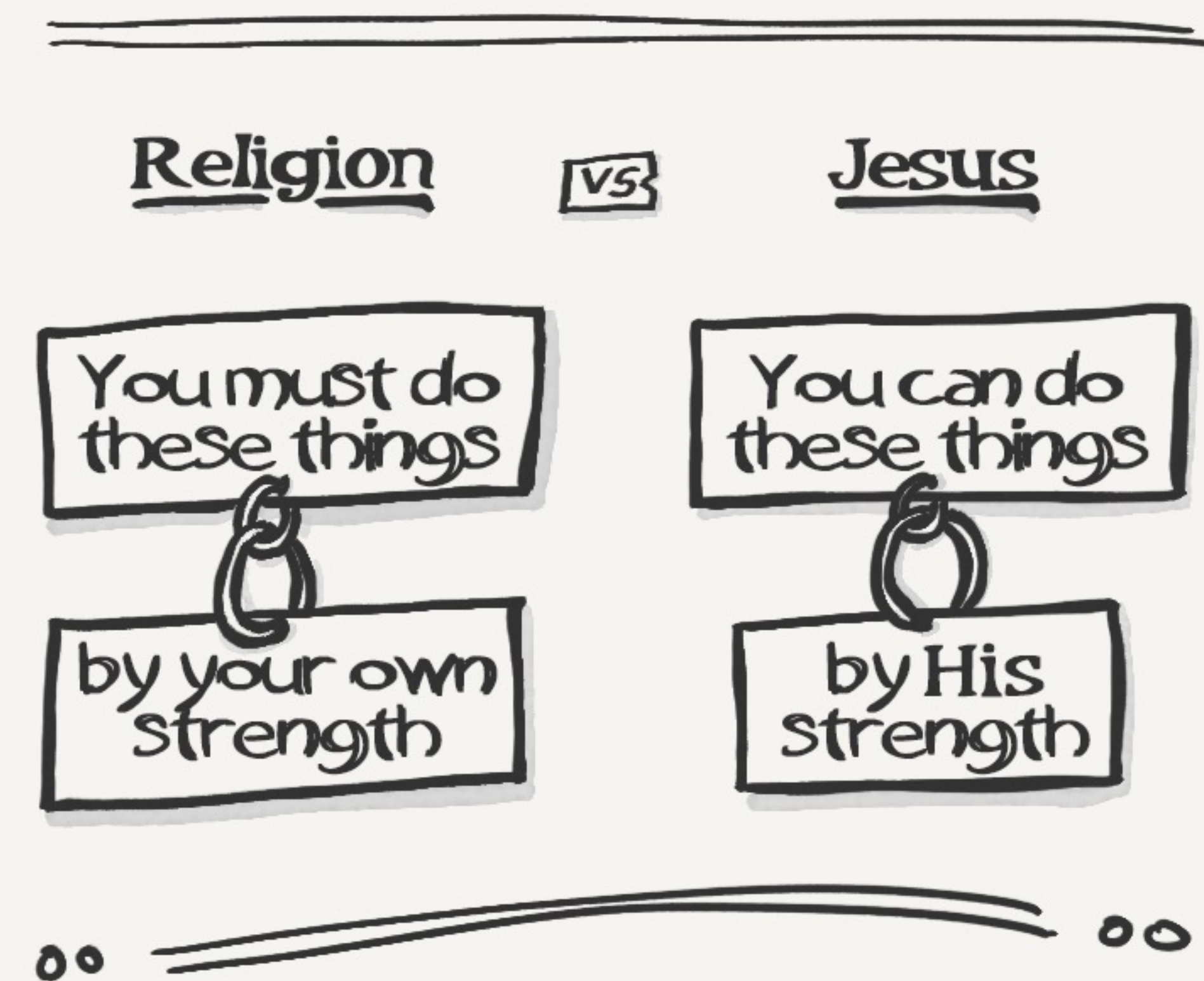
At once the man was cured and went on his way.

The Jewish leaders saw this and were angry because Jesus had healed on the day of rest.

When Jesus responded that He must be at work since His Father is still working, they were even more upset since in saying this, He was claiming to be equal to God.

Are you trying to heal yourself by your own strength?

You'll never be able to do it on your own.



Which Jesus are you serving?

Religion was more concerned about the rules than the man's health or soul.

God established a day of rest for our health and our souls. Religion added all the rules.

We can get so used to our own weakness that we become content and make less effort to change.



"We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

-C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory

Jesus is standing right in front of you asking...
Do you want to be healed?