

Expecting Miracles

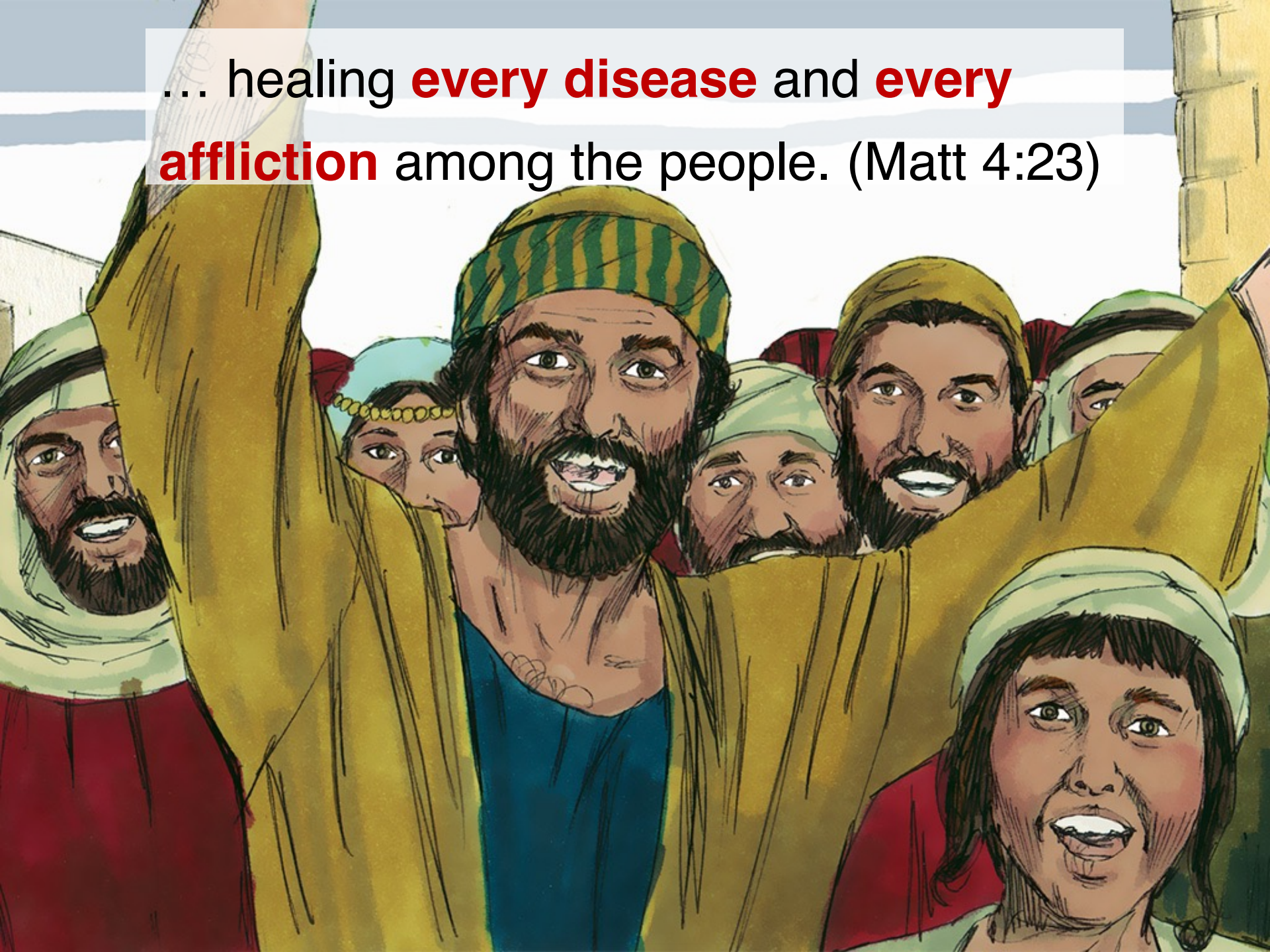
Matthew 4:23-25

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee,
teaching in their synagogues
and proclaiming the gospel of the
kingdom and healing every disease
and every affliction among the people.

²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them.

²⁵ And great crowds followed him
from Galilee and the Decapolis,
and from Jerusalem and Judea,
and from beyond the Jordan.

... healing **every disease** and **every affliction** among the people. (Matt 4:23)



Jesus' healings

- Healed all who asked
- Right away, not later
- Instant, not gradual
- Complete, not partial
- Miraculous, not medical

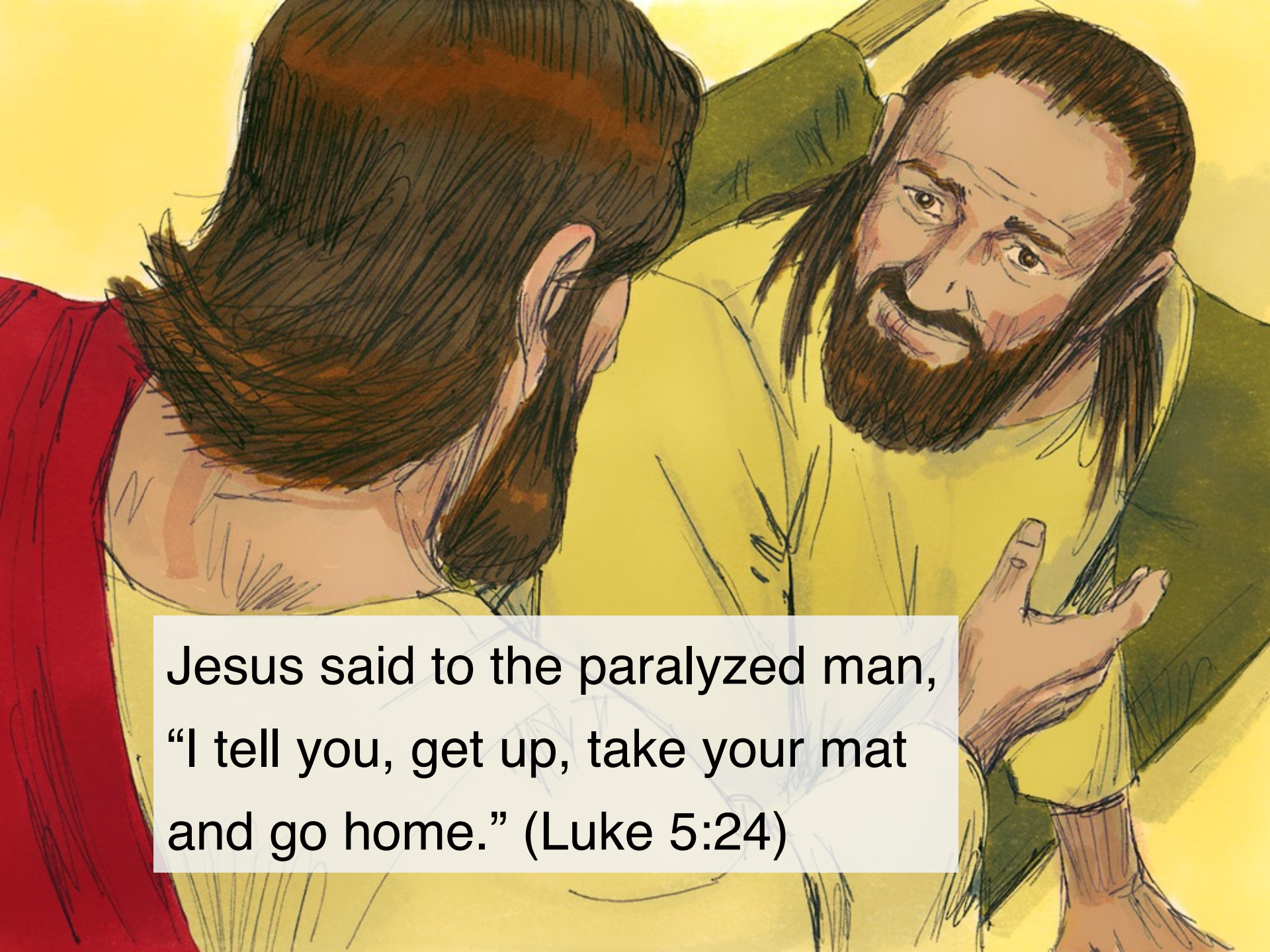


He bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up **at once** and began to wait on them. (Luke 4:39)

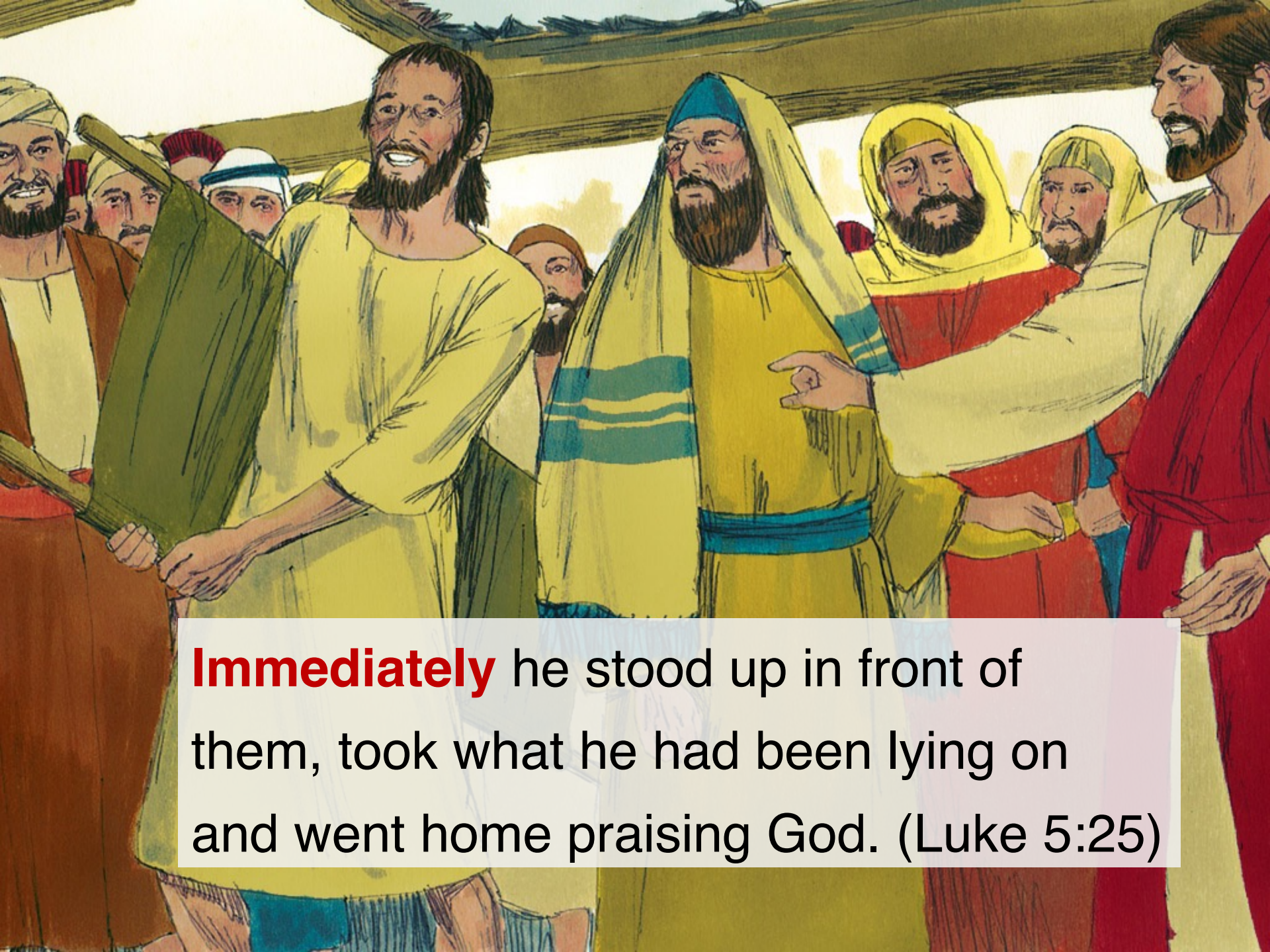
A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” **Immediately** he was cleansed of his leprosy. (Matt 8:2-3)

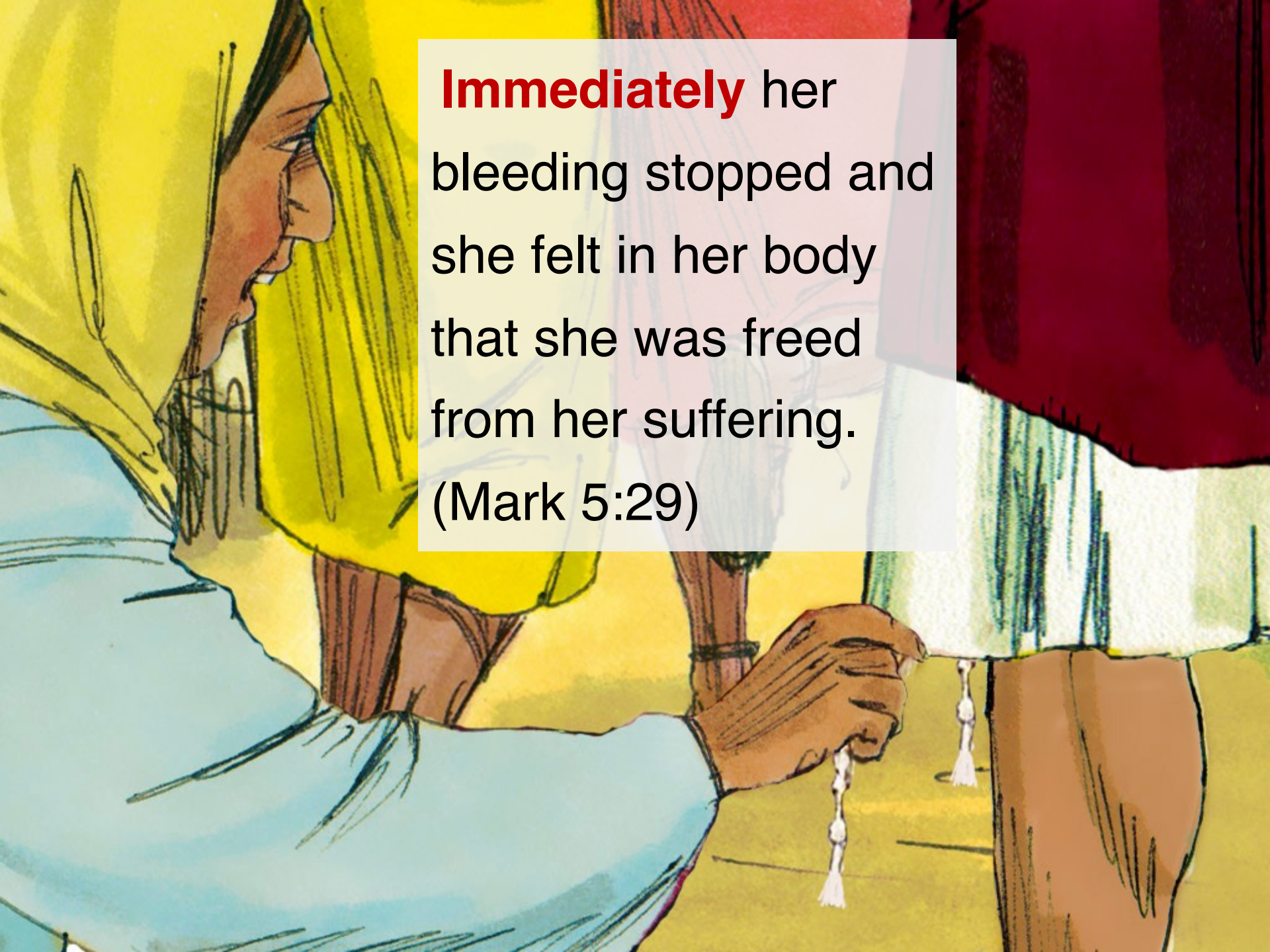




Jesus said to the paralyzed man,
“I tell you, get up, take your mat
and go home.” (Luke 5:24)

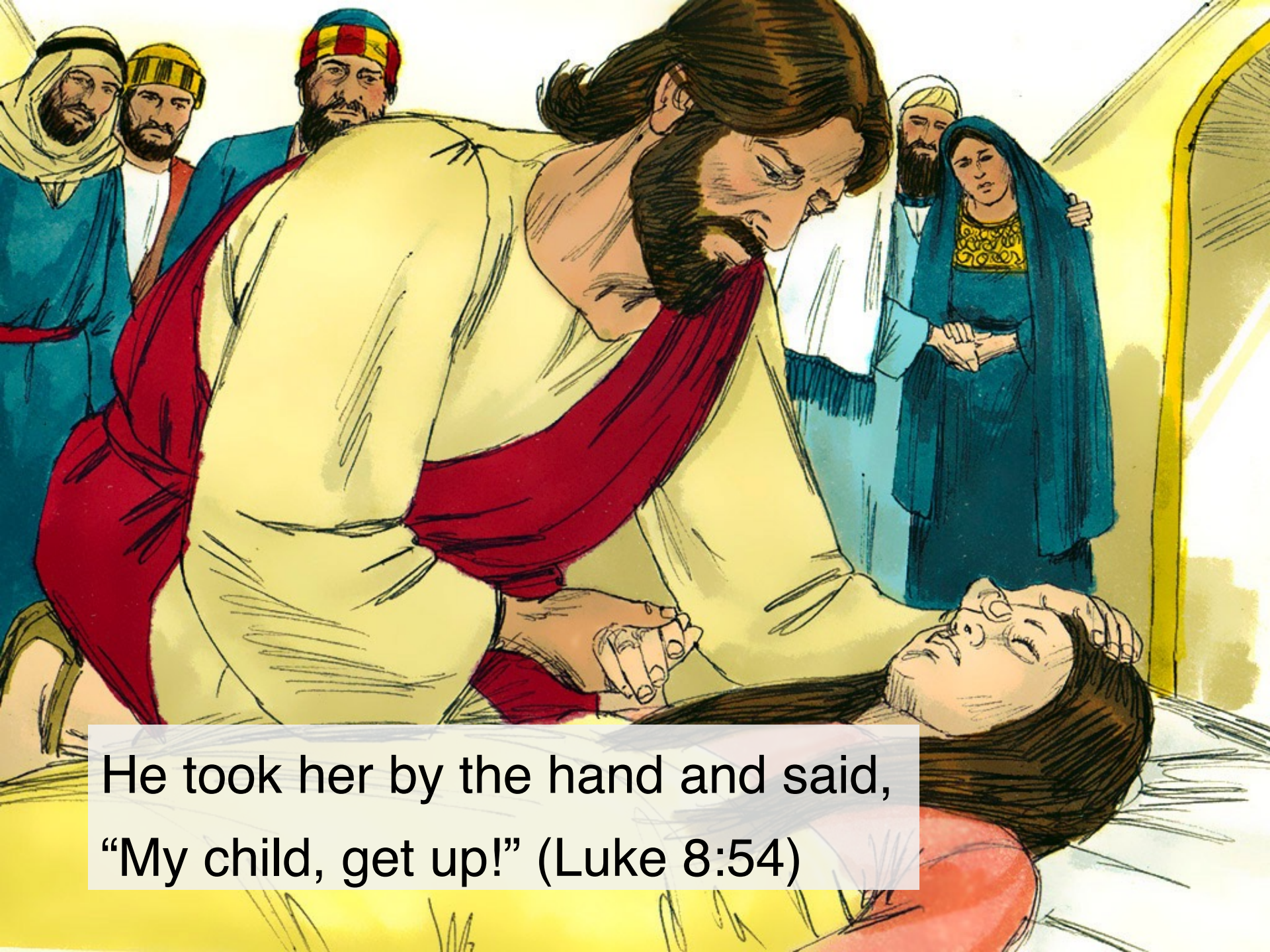


Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. (Luke 5:25)



Immediately her
bleeding stopped and
she felt in her body
that she was freed
from her suffering.

(Mark 5:29)



He took her by the hand and said,
“My child, get up!” (Luke 8:54)



Her spirit returned, and **immediately** she stood up. (Luke 8:55)

A woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” ¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and **immediately** she straightened up and praised God. (Luke 13:11-13)



Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.”

Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God.

(Luke 18:42-43)

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Expectations

- Do such miracles happen today?
- Should we seek such miracles today, or lower our expectations?
- Should we expect 100% miracles whenever faith is strong?
- Wrong expectations are harmful.

God in action

- **Providence:** hidden plan governs created patterns and second causes
- **Answers:** interacts with prayers
- **Miracles:** direct divine action

All for his glory and our good

God is free

God, in his ordinary providence, maketh use of means, yet is free to work without, above, and against them, at his pleasure.

(Westminster Confession 5.3)

Facing facts

- ALL God's acts deserve our praise.
- Biblical miracles were special.
- We live between Jesus' comings.
- We have Spirit as down payment.
- Miracles are possible, not promised.
- We don't always know how to pray.
- Faith trusts God to do what is best.

Expecting miracles

I will remember your wonders of old... You are the God who works wonders. (Psalm 77:11, 14)

Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. (Acts 4:30)