

# I CAN'T OR I WON'T

John 5:1-9

Introduction:

## 1. Historical Background

A) John gives a an indication of the time

> A feast of the Jews (John 5:1a)

B) John tells us the place - Jerusalem

> The sheep gate (John 5:2a)

> A pool called Bethesda that has five porches or pillars (John 5:2b)

## 2. The Story

A) The Characters

> A certain man who had an infirmity for 38 years (John 5:5)

He has come to this pool called Bethesda with hopes to be first in the water but to no avail (John 5:7)

Besides his persistence, the insights John gives us into this man are not flattering

He has no friends who are willing to help him get in the pool (vs. 7)

After he was healed he didn't even ask Jesus what His name was (vs. 12-13)

Compare the leper who was cleansed in Luke 17:11-19

Jesus' response to the man later in the temple (vs. 14)

The questionable motives behind his going back to the religious leaders (vs. 15)

Compare the man born blind in John 9

> Jesus comes to the pool with an intention of healing this man

A *certain* man (John 5:5)

Jesus saw him lying there and *already knew* that he had been in that condition for a long time (John 5:6)

B) The Question and Answer

> Do you want to be made well? (John 5:6d)

> I am not able to get in the pool before others (John 5:7)

### C) The Command and Response

- > Rise, take up your bed and walk. (John 5:8)
  
- > Immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked (John 5:9)
  
- > Notice now many verses are devoted to this miracle?

### 3. The Significance

#### A) The healing of this invalid was much more than a random act of compassion by Jesus

- > It provided an insight into the wonders of the presence and reign of Messiah (Isaiah 35:5-6)
  
- > It also revealed the inherent authority of Jesus Christ as the Son of God to do this miracle on the Sabbath (John 5:16-18)
  
- > John points us to the significance of this event in the rest of the chapter

29 of the last 30 verses in the chapter are devoted to Jesus' revelation of the Father and His Son

Father mentioned 14 times directly and multiple other times in pronouns

Son mentioned 9 times directly and multiple other times in pronouns

The message of the Father and Son is salvation through the Son (John 5:24)

A truth that was rooted in and revealed in the Scriptures (John 5:39, 45-47)

#### B) The physical needs of this invalid paled in comparison to his spiritual needs

- > Jesus' follow up with the man is very telling (John 5:14)

Further down in the text we see the gravity of this warning (John 5:28-29)

- > As dependant as this man was upon the sovereignty and grace of Jesus to heal him physically, so was he dependant upon the sovereignty and grace of God for salvation

The sovereignty of God in salvation (Romans 5:6-8)

The grace of God in salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Our response of faith to God's gracious offer. (John 5:24)

### **APPLICATION:**