

**Title: D.I.Y - John 5 1-18**

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**Read:**

<sup>1-6</sup>Soon another Feast came around and Jesus was back in Jerusalem. Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there was a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, with five alcoves. Hundreds of sick people—blind, crippled, paralyzed—were in these alcoves. One man had been an invalid there for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him stretched out by the pool and knew how long he had been there, he said, "Do you want to get well?" <sup>7</sup>The sick man said, "Sir, when the water is stirred, I don't have anybody to put me in the pool. By the time I get there, somebody else is already in." <sup>8-</sup><sup>9</sup>Jesus said, "Get up, take your bedroll, start walking." The man was healed on the spot. He picked up his bedroll and walked off. <sup>9-10</sup>That day happened to be the Sabbath. The Jews stopped the healed man and said, "It's the Sabbath. You can't carry your bedroll around. It's against the rules." <sup>11</sup>But he told them, "The man who made me well told me to. He said, 'Take your bedroll and start walking.'" <sup>12-13</sup>They asked, "Who gave you the order to take it up and start walking?" But the healed man didn't know, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd. <sup>14</sup>A little later Jesus found him in the Temple and said, "You look wonderful! You're well! Don't return to a sinning life or something worse might happen." <sup>15-16</sup>The man went back and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. That is why the Jews were out to get Jesus—because he did this kind of thing on the Sabbath. <sup>17</sup>But Jesus defended himself. "My Father is working straight through, even on the Sabbath. So am I." <sup>18</sup>That really set them off. The Jews were now not only out to expose him; they were out to kill him. Not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was calling God his own Father, putting himself on a level with God.

**Think:**

How often do we moan around complaining about how bad life is. "It's not fair, my teacher nags at us all the time, for no good reason. My parents are rubbish; if only they were better, we could go on better holidays. Rubbish stuff is always happening to me and it's everyone else's fault." Funny how sometimes our problems are always someone else's fault and we believe there is nothing we can do about it. All too often we complain and moan to God in our prayers and leave it at that. Seems to me, if Jesus told the blind guy that he had to get up and walk, then we might have to be involved in our own answers to prayer as well. Don't miss the point, Jesus is more than capable of answering prayers without our involvement, it's just that he seems to like us to get up and help as well. So the next time you hear yourself moaning about your problems, and asking God for help, maybe you should ask for his guidance as well. Then hopefully God will use you to answer your prayers.

**Pray:**

Lord, thank you for answering so many prayers. Please Lord, use me, to answer mine and other peoples prayers. Amen.

**Action:**

As you go around today, why don't you ask God to prompt you, with his Holy Spirit, as you come across people that need help. Bye.