The Gospel of John is ripe with conflict for Jesus because of the legalism and pettiness of the Jews

* The spark is a sabbath healing of an invalid of 38 years

John 5 is thematic for conflict with noble beginnings

* It is a miracle story – occurs on the sabbath - during a feast of the Jews
* All healing miracles confront sin

John floods the text with theological symbolism

* Bethesda
* Torah: Moses or law
* Infirmed: captive to sin
* Thirty-eight years
* The healed invalid is new Israel
* Sheep’s Gate
* Jesus finds the man twice: at the pool and in the temple

Jesus is introduced into the text as Creator and Giver of Life by a question: *Do you want to be healed?*

The healing of the invalid points to the new creation of Holy Baptism

John transitions in Verse 9: *Now that day was a Sabbath*

A head on collision between Jesus and the Jews is inevitable

* The Jews are in lock-step with the oral law - an additional 613 commandments added to the Law of Moses
* There is no law against good works. Faith and Jesus working through you are not forbidden

Jesus makes a profound statement in John 5: 17 *My Father is working until now, and I am working*

For the Jews; the controversy over the Sabbath is more symptom than problem.

The battle royal is on – the irony overwhelming

* The heart of the Sabbath controversy is the identity of Jesus

Jesus finds the man in the temple, the place of sacrifice for sin, saying: *You have become whole! Sin no longer that nothing worse happens to you*

* Jesus is guilty of healing and making us whole