



I CANNOT DO THIS!
(Matthew 3)



“...the Word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of Isaiah, the prophet.

A voice of one calling in the desert
“Prepare the way for the Lord
Make straight paths for him.

Every valley shall be filled in and every
mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

And all mankind will see God's salvation."

(Luke 3:3-6)

John's

MISSION: Prepare! Initiate an awareness
of Jesus

METHOD: Confrontational preaching,
“repentance for sins” baptism

APPEARANCE: Rough and simple;
prophet's garb

HIGH DRAMA... “Baptize me also, John.”

“No way! Unthinkable! You should
baptize me!”

Jesus forced the issue by saying, “Even though you think you cannot do this, you can, and you must. This is God’s plan.”

(3:15)

THEOLOGY

This act of baptism was God's righteous plan by which Jesus IDENTIFIED with man and man's sin. He could not substitute for them unless he fully took on their condition which baptism spoke of.

Isaiah 53:12 - ...he was numbered among
the trespassers

11 Cor. 5:21 – God made him who knew no
sin to be sin so that in him we might
become the righteousness of God.

Apart from the theology is John's objection and reluctance as a human being. He did not feel capable of this task that came unexpectedly upon him.
"I cannot do this."

When you feel inadequate, ineffective,
or puzzled and want to throw up your hands
saying, “I cannot do this!” **CONSIDER...**

God has you in the **place you are.**

There is much you do not know, so don't **give up** because your task seems “illogical.”

Your “inadequacies” may be the **very**
reason that God has placed you where
you are... to give testimony to God’s own
enabling power.

11 Cor. 12:9 My grace is sufficient for you
for my power is made perfect in weakness.