

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. *This* morning we are looking again at John chapter 5.
2. I would like to invite you to take God's Word as we look this morning at verses 19-24.
3. Read John 5:17-24.
4. Jesus is God.
5. There's no other greater truth found in the Bible and John presents that glorious truth in His Gospel.
6. He began in the first verse of the first chapter by saying, **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being"** (Jn.1:1-3).
7. In John 1:10 John says, "He was in the world, and **the world was made through Him**, and the world did not know Him."
8. In John 1:12 He said, "But as many as received Him, **to them He gave the right to become children of God**, even to those who believe in His name."

9. The apostle John records John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus in John 1:15 and says, "John testified about Him and cried out, saying, 'This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, **for He existed before me.**'"
10. In John 1:18 the apostle John further states, "No one has seen God at any time; **the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.**"
11. Referring again to John the Baptist, the apostle John says in John 1:29-30 that "The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "**Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**"<sup>30</sup> 'This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, **for He existed before me.**'"
12. John the Baptist later says in John 1:34, "I myself have seen, and have testified that **this is the Son of God.**"
13. As you approach the end of chapter one, the apostle John tells us about Jesus' calling of the disciples. In His first encounter with Andrew he runs to tell his brother Peter in John 1:41, "**We have found the Messiah (which translated means Christ).**"
14. Later He finds Philip and the apostle John says in John 1:45 that "Philip found Nathanael and said to him, '**We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the**

**Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”**

15. After Jesus meets Nathanael and reveals that He had saw him under the fig tree, John 1:49 says that “Nathanael answered Him, ‘Rabbi, **You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.**”
16. When you look at chapter two, you hear similar statements.
17. In chapter two Jesus performs His first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee and John says He “**manifested His glory**” (v.11).
18. After the wedding, He and His disciples went to Jerusalem for the Passover feast.
19. While He was there He drove out the money changers from the temple area and said in verse 16, “Take these things away; stop making **My Father's house** a place of business.”
20. John 2:23-25 also adds that while “He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing. <sup>24</sup>But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, **for He knew all men,** <sup>25</sup>**and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.**”

21. As you move to chapter three, Jesus examines the heart of a Pharisee named Nicodemus and tells Him He must be born again.
22. As Nicodemus questions Him about these things, He tells him in verse 13, “**No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.**”
23. John concludes chapter three with Jesus calling His listeners to believe because “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him” (vv.16-17).
24. Moving to chapter four, Jesus leaves Judea for Galilee but first He “had to pass through Samaria” (v.4) because He was to have a divine encounter with a woman of Sychar.
25. After revealing her sin He reveals His Messiahship in verses 25-26 after “The woman said to Him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.’ <sup>26</sup> **Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am He.’**”
26. After the woman tells the people in the city about Jesus, they also believed having “heard for [themselves]...that **this One is indeed the Savior of the world**” (v.42).

27. In verse 50 the apostle John tells us about Jesus healing a royal official's son with a word and that this was **His** **"second sign that Jesus performed"** when He had come out of Judea into Galilee" (v.54).
28. All of these statements and events reveal who Jesus is.
29. That has been John's point for writing this Gospel.
30. John 20:30-31 (NASB) <sup>30</sup> Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> **but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;** and that believing you may have life in His name.
31. The same is true in as you look at chapter 5.
32. Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath who "had been ill for thirty-eight years" (v.5).
33. "For this reason the Jews were persecuting" Him (v.16).
34. But in verses 17-24 He answers their accusations as well as their plot to kill Him.
35. He begins verse 17 by saying, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

36. A.W. Pink says, “Instead of pointing to the example of David or appealing to human sympathies, Christ identifies Himself directly with “the Father.” In saying “My Father worketh hitherto and I work” He affirms His absolute equality with the Father. It would be nothing short of blasphemy for a mere creature — no matter how exalted his rank or how great his antiquity — to couple himself with the Father thus. When He speaks of “My Father... and I” there is no misunderstanding the claim that He made.”<sup>1</sup>
37. Jesus reveals that He is *Jesus is equal to God first in His Person.*
38. He reveals that truth in verse 19 in three ways.
39. He says, God is His Father, the Father is working and He is working too.
40. Now as we look at verses 19-24 Jesus continues to answer the Jews and says in verses 19-20 that He is ***equal to God in His Works.***

---

<sup>1</sup> A.W. Pink, *The Gospel of John.*

[http://www.godrules.net/library/pink/NEWpink\\_a18.htm](http://www.godrules.net/library/pink/NEWpink_a18.htm)

- I. Jesus is Equal to God in His Person (vv.17-18)**
- II. Jesus is Equal to God in His Works (vv.19-20)**

Jesus begins verse 19 with those familiar words “Truly, truly.”

We heard them earlier in John 1:51 when He told Nathanael, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

He also used these two words in chapter 3 when speaking to Nicodemus about the new birth (see vv.3, 5, 11).

What does “truly, truly” mean?

In the Greek this is equivalent to our English word amen.

This is an emphatic way of saying "I'm telling you the truth."<sup>2</sup>

There are two truths He gives by His statement in verses 19-20.

First He says...

- A. He Does What the Father Does (v.19)

He was so vitally linked with God the Father that He could not act independently.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup>John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997, c1997). Jn 5:19.

The truth is that *the Son can do nothing by himself*—or, better, ‘on his own initiative’ (*aph’ heautou*, lit. ‘from himself’).

Though He is the unique Son of God (*cf.* notes on 1:49), and may truly be called God (1:1, 18; 20:28) and take to himself divine titles (*e.g.* 8:58) and, as in this context, divine rights (5:17), yet is he always submissive to the Father.

Second, He says...

B. The Father Shows Him What He Does (v.20)

Not only does the Son always do what pleases the Father (8:29), but He *can do only what He sees His Father doing*.<sup>4</sup>

William Barclay says, “The salient truth about Jesus is that in Him we see God. If we wish to see how God feels to men, if we wish to see how God reacts to sin, if we wish to see how God regards the human situation, we must look at Jesus. The mind of Jesus is the mind

---

<sup>3</sup>William MacDonald and Arthur Farstad, *Believer's Bible Commentary : Old and New Testaments* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1995). Jn 5:19.

<sup>4</sup>D. A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, Mich.: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans, 1991). 250.



of God; the words of Jesus are the words of God; the actions of Jesus are the actions of God.”<sup>5</sup>

Jesus claimed to be one with His Father in *His works*. If healing a man on the Sabbath was a sin, then the Father was to blame!

Jesus did nothing “of Himself ” but only that which the Father was doing.

The Father and the Son worked together, doing the same deeds in the same way. “I and the Father are One” (John 10:30).<sup>6</sup>

1. Jesus said in John 3:35 (NASB) **The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.**
2. In John 8:28, He said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, **and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.**”
3. He affirmed this again in John 9:4 when He said, **“We must work the works of Him who sent Me** as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.”

---

<sup>5</sup>*The Gospel of John : Volume 1*, ed. William Barclay, lecturer in the University of Glasgow, The Daily study Bible series, Rev. ed. (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 2000, c1975). 188.

<sup>6</sup>Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1989). Jn 5:19.

So everything Jesus said or did was because the Father was at work in Him and He was doing the very works of His Father. That's why Jesus was *equal to God in His Works*.

In verse 21, He further says to the Jews who were persecuting Him because He healed the crippled man on the Sabbath that...

**III. Jesus is Equal to God in His Power and Sovereignty (v.21)**

He says in verse 21, "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes."

By asserting His equality with God, Jesus claimed that He had the parallel power and sovereignty with God to raise the dead "just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life."

The Bible teaches...

**A. Only God Has the Power to Give Life to the Dead**

1. God said in Deuteronomy 32:39, "See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; **It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal**, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand."
2. In Hannah's song of thanksgiving, she prayed in 1 Samuel 2:6, "**The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.**"

3. As Paul is giving his defense before King Agrippa, he asked in Acts 26:8, “Why is it considered incredible among you *people* if **God does raise the dead?**”
4. He told the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 1:9, “Indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in **God who raises the dead.**”
5. Even the writer of Hebrews, when referring to Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac, said in Hebrews 11:19 that “He considered that **God is able to raise people even from the dead.**”
6. In 1 Kings 17:17-24 He did raise the dead: <sup>17</sup> Now it came about after these things that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became sick; and his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. <sup>18</sup> So she said to Elijah, "What do I have to do with you, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my iniquity to remembrance and to put my son to death!" <sup>19</sup> He said to her, "Give me your son." Then he took him from her bosom and carried him up to the upper room where he was living, and laid him on his own bed. <sup>20</sup> **He called to the Lord** and said, "O Lord my God, have You also brought calamity to the widow with whom I am staying, by causing her son to die?" <sup>21</sup> Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and called to the Lord and said, "O Lord my God, I pray You, let this child's life return to him." <sup>22</sup> **The Lord heard the voice of Elijah, and the life of the child returned to him**

**and he revived.** <sup>23</sup> Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said, "See, your son is alive." <sup>24</sup> Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth."

B. Because Jesus' Power is the Same as the Father, He is Also Able to Raise the Physically Dead

1. In John 11:25-44 He raised Lazarus from the dead
2. In Matthew 9:18-25 He raised the synagogue official's daughter from the dead
3. In Luke 7:11-15 Jesus raise a man who was from the city of Nain
4. Jesus said in John 6:39-40, "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and **I Myself will raise him up on the last day.**"
5. He also said in John 6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and **I will raise him up on the last day.**"

C. Jesus Also Had the Power to Give Spiritual Life to Whomever He Wished

Verse 21 continues, “Even so the Son also gives life to whomever He wishes.”

This is not only true physically but also spiritually.

1. Jesus said in John 4:14, “Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; **but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.**”
2. In John 6:27 He said, “Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which **the Son of Man will give to you,** for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”

Unlike Elijah (1 Kings 17:22) and Elisha (2 Kings 4:34–35), Jesus did not merely act as God’s representative when He raised the dead, but as God Himself. **The Son Himself gives** resurrection and spiritual **life to whom He wishes.** As God is the source of life, so Jesus Christ is the source of life. As God chooses when He gives life, so does the Son choose, in perfect agreement with the Father, a truth illustrated by the salvation of sinners. All whom the Father chose before the foundation of the world to give to the Son will come to him, and He will not reject any of them (6:37). Even Jesus’ truly human prayer in Gethsemane, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will” ( Matt. 26:39), yields to the perfect concord between the persons of the Godhead.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup>John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary : John 1-11* (Chicago: Moody Press, 2006). 189.

Jesus is equal to God in His Person, His works, in power and sovereignty and as verse 22 reveals...

#### IV. Jesus is Equal to God in His Judgment (v.22)

Verse 22 says, “For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.”

##### A. God is the Judge of all the Earth

1. Abraham said to God in Genesis 18:25, “Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?”
2. The Psalmist said in Psalms 7:11, “God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.”
3. Psalms 75:7 says, “But God is the Judge; He puts down one and exalts another.”

##### B. All Judgment Has Been Given to Jesus

Verse 22 again says, “For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.”

Verse 27 says that God “gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.”

The fact that the **Father judges** no one, but **has given all judgment to the Son** further attests to Christ’s deity. Because their wills are in perfect harmony, all judgment can be given to Christ in the assurance that His judgment will be, in fact, the very same as the Father’s judgment. Although judgment was not the

primary purpose of Christ's first coming to earth (3:17; 12:47), it remains the inescapable final result of rejecting the salvation He offers (3:18).<sup>8</sup>

1. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 says when Jesus is "revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,<sup>8</sup> dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."
2. Paul told the men of Athens in Acts 17:30-31<sup>30</sup> "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent,<sup>31</sup> **because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.**"
3. On that terrible day of judgment, those who have rejected Jesus will hear Him say, "I never knew you; Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'" (Mat.7:23).

J.C. Ryal says, "All power and authority over the world is committed to Christ's hands. He is the King and the Judge of mankind. Before Him every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that he is Lord. He that was once despised and rejected of man, condemned and crucified as a malefactor, shall one day

---

<sup>8</sup>John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary : John 1-11* (Chicago: Moody Press, 2006). 189.

hold a great judgment, and judge all the world. 'God shall judge the secrets of man by Jesus Christ.' (Rom. 2:16.)."<sup>9</sup>

Jesus is equal to the Father in person, in works, in power and sovereignty, in judgment and lastly...

**V. Jesus is Equal to the Father in His Honor (vv.23-24)**

Jesus continues in verses 23-24 by saying, "so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.<sup>24</sup>" Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

**A. The Father's Purpose in Entrusting All His Works and Judgment to Jesus is So that All Will Honor the Son Even as They Honor the Father**

A.W. Pink says, "The Father is the One whom we might most naturally expect to be the Judge. He is the first who was wronged. It is His rights (though not His exclusively) which have been denied. His governmental claims have been set at naught. He was the One who sent here the Lord Jesus who has been despised and rejected. But instead of the Father being the Judge, He hath "committed all judgment unto the Son," and the reason for this is "that all should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father." There is then,

---

<sup>9</sup> J.C. Ryal, *The Gospel of John*.  
<http://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/j05.htm>



or more correctly, there will be, absolute equality between the Father and the Son in Divine honors.”<sup>10</sup>

Throughout the Bible we are taught that God alone is to be worshiped. In the Ten Commandments, the people were forbidden to have any god but the one true God. Now we are taught **that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father**. The only conclusion we can come to from this verse is that Jesus Christ is God.<sup>11</sup>

1. God said in Isaiah 42:8, “I am the Lord, that is My name; **I will not give My glory to another**, Nor My praise to graven images.”
2. But in Philippians 2:9-11 Paul says, “For this reason also, **God highly exalted Him**, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”

B. The Book of Revelation Shows Jesus Receiving that Honor Bestowed on Him by the Father

---

<sup>10</sup> A.W. Pink, *The Gospel of John*.

[http://www.godrules.net/library/pink/NEWpink\\_a18.htm](http://www.godrules.net/library/pink/NEWpink_a18.htm)

<sup>11</sup> William MacDonald and Arthur Farstad, *Believer's Bible Commentary : Old and New Testaments* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1995). Jn 5:23.

In Revelation chapter 5, after Jesus took the scroll from the hand of Him to sits on the throne, verses 9-14 says, “And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. <sup>10</sup> ‘You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.’ <sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.’ <sup>13</sup> And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, ‘To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.’ <sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures kept saying, ‘Amen.’ And the elders fell down and worshiped.”

So willingly or unwillingly, everyone will eventually obey the Father’s command to honor the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus closes this section by reaffirming His authority to give eternal life to whomever He desires.

He begins again with the words He used in verse 19, “Truly, truly.”

He says in verse 24, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

He identified those who receive eternal life as those who hear His **word** (or message) and believe the Father **who sent** Him.<sup>12</sup>

The promise to those who believe is that they do “not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

### CONCLUSION

1. The claims of Jesus Christ confront everyone, forcing all to make a decision either for or against Him.
2. There is no neutral ground, for as Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters” (Luke 11:23).
3. Those who accept Him for who He is, God incarnate in human flesh, will be saved from their sins through Him (Matt. 1:21; 1 Tim. 1:15; Heb. 7:25).
4. But those who believe Him to be anything other than who He truly is will one day face His judgment

---

<sup>12</sup>John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary* : *John 1-11* (Chicago: Moody Press, 2006). 191.

5. John 3:36 says, “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”
6. Have you received Him today?
7. John 1:12-13 says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”
8. Honor Him today by turning from your sin and surrendering your life to Him.
9. Let’s pray.