

John 5.19-20
Marveling At The Son

Aim: to marvel and be in awe-struck wonder at the works of the Father through His Son Jesus!

Scripture Reading: Luke 7.11-17

INTRODUCTION:

Have you ever wondered why God created and designed certain things in the world? Why did God create and design Niagara Falls? Why did God create and design the Swiss Alps? Why did God create and design the platypus? Why did God create and design the local deer in Fayette County?

Why?

Why did God, before the foundation of the world, create and design a plan of salvation to redeem mankind from their sin? Why did God create and design a plan in order to unleash His indelible grace upon sinners? Why did God create and design a plan in order to unleash His immeasurable mercy upon sinners? Why did God create and design the church, the body of Christ, the new people of God?

Have you ever wondered why?

Why did God send His Son to this earth? Why did God empower His Son with the Holy Spirit? Why did Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, work the works of His Father?

All of these things and infinitely more...why?

So that...you...would...marvel!

So that...you...would...marvel, at Him!

So do you **marvel**...at Him? When you think about what it means to **marvel** what comes to your mind? Is it the comic books? To my knowledge I don't think I've ever fully read a comic book. But if you have these super heroes and they do feats of wonder and amazement in protecting the citizens of earth I think the point of creating these heroes is to **marvel** at their sheer abilities to save the people of earth from evil. But that's just an ignorant guess.

But in the creativity of man is the fruit of the creativity of God created in man. Every person longs to see and to **marvel** at greatness. This is why we go and we stand at Niagara Falls and let the sheer power and weight of the mist of water falling down consume us. This is why we go and stand at the foot of the Swiss Alps and let the sheer size and grandeur amaze us and cause us to **marvel**. This is why we step out of our neighborhoods and go into nature and look upon God's creativity in some of the animals that He has made and that moves us to **marvel** and especially over the platypus.

It has all been created and designed for a reason and not happenstance. Every single thing in the universe has been created by God so that you will **marvel**. Every single thing in the universe has been created by God so that you will **marvel** and this includes the works of God in His Son Jesus Christ.

So that you will **marvel** at His works. Period!

Did you also know that you glorify what you **marvel** at? This is why motivation and aim are so significant in your life. Because if we're not careful we will **marvel** and glorify things or people and not the God who created those things and those people. This is what makes those things or those people become idols. If you **marvel** over something or someone and that's where it ends, then **marveling** in that thing or that someone, is what the bible calls idolatry.

But if you **marvel** over something or even someone's ability and that takes your mind and heart toward God, the Creator of that thing or that someone's ability then He is what you glorify when you **marvel**.

It is such an acute degree of difference between true worship of God and idolatry. You must NEVER allow your mind/heart to stop and **marvel** on the thing or the person that God has created. You must take all **marveling** Godward...to Him!

This is why God has created things and given people such talents and abilities and spiritual gifts, so that they will **marvel** not at the created things and gifts, but **marvel** at the Creator of those things and gifts. Amen!

Today in **John 5** God **the Father** wants you to see His works in and through His **Son**, so that you **marvel**! Will you so see the glory of **the Son** this morning and indeed do just that; will you **marvel** at the Son!

Let's read it together...John 5.18-20

Title: Marveling at the Son!

Aim: to marvel and be in awe-struck wonder at the works of the Father through His Son Jesus!

Jesus Doubles Down On His Claim (v.19)

“Truly, truly, I say to you...”

Back in **verse 16** we learned that **the Jews** were persecuting Jesus because he kept healing people on the Sabbath. Jesus was breaking their man-made rules and laws of Sabbath keeping and it was making **the Jews** very angry, so they started harassing Jesus and persecuting Him in order to try and drive Him away.

Jesus then responds to their persecution and harassment in **verse 17** by telling them that He and His Father are both working. In that one response Jesus makes the claim of equality and one in essence with God clearly claiming deity for Himself. This angered **the Jews** even more and now that sought all the more to not just persecute and harass Him and drive Him away, but to now kill Him.

So as the heat of persecution increases to the point of seeking to kill Jesus, Jesus doesn't shrink back from His claim and as a matter of fact Jesus actually doubles-down on His oneness and His equality claim with God **the Father** in **verse 19**.

He says, **"Truly, truly, I say to you"**

The weight of this phrase may not mean very much to us today. But when Jesus says back to back **truly, truly**...what He's doing is reinforcing everything that He just said. **Truly, truly** is actually the Greek word *a-mane, a-mane*. Can you take a guess at what English word we use that has this as its origin? **Amen!**

I read that "it was a custom, which passed over from the synagogues to the Christian assemblies, that when someone read or had spoken, or had offered up solemn prayer to God, the others responded **Amen**, and thus made the substance of what was uttered their own.

The word "*amen*" is a most remarkable word. It was transliterated directly from the Hebrew into the Greek of the New Testament, then into Latin and into English and many other languages, so that it is practically a universal word. It has been called the best known word in human speech. The word is directly related -- in fact, almost identical -- to the Hebrew word for "believe" or faithful. Thus, it came to mean "sure" or "truly", as an expression of absolute trust and confidence."

Jesus is repeating and making that sure and true and confident claim of His equality with **the Father**. **"Truly, truly I say to you."** Amen, amen I say to you. This is why it is biblically right for you and I to say **amen** when someone speaks a biblical truth. We not only affirm what is being said, but by saying **amen** ourselves we make the substance of what is being said our own.

So **truly, truly** is a very powerful way of affirming what has been said or what is about to be said. And in Jesus' case both. Because not only did Jesus already make the claim, but **truly, truly**, He is about to make the claim yet again of His unique relationship with the Father.

So how does He do this in **verse 19**?

The Father/Son Harmony (v.19)

“Truly, truly I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something that He sees the Father doing;”

Jesus, **the Son** of God, teaches these **Jews** in **verse 19** as well as all who were listening of the absolute harmony between **God the Father** and **God the Son**. Jesus says, **“the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something that He sees the Father doing.”**

What Jesus is speaking to here in **verse 19** is not necessarily His inability apart from **the Father**, but that the harmony between **the Father** and **the Son** is so substantially strong that **the Son can do nothing of Himself/alone**. Let me say it like this. You cannot have the divine work of **the Son** apart from the divine work of **the Father**. They are so unified together as One and in essence that Jesus can and would even say, **“the Son can do nothing of Himself.”** Jesus in **verse 19** is speaking of the absolute, complete, total and pure harmony between **God the Father** and **God the Son** and **the Son’s** subordinate role in taking on human flesh and becoming a man in obedience to His **Father**.

So all the works of **the Father** are works of **the Son** and the Spirit together. All works of **the Son** are works of **the Father** and the Spirit together. All works of **the Spirit** are works of **the Father** and **the Son** together. Now that doesn’t mean that they all do the same thing. **The Father** did not die on the cross. **The Son** is not the One who regenerates man and gives them new life. The Holy Spirit is not the One who chose those who would be saved before the foundation of the world. But with that said, they do nothing apart from one another. For all three are one in essence, they are one in nature, and they are one in mind. Therefore Jesus **can do nothing of Himself** apart from **the Father**.

This is Jesus’ way of affirming and directing all of their attention onto **the Father’s** working until now. Jesus speaks of the harmony and equality that exists between He and His **Father**. How awesome is this! It is so awesome that Jesus would pave the way of this awe-struck truth by saying, **“Truly, truly!”**

John Gill says, “**the Son can do nothing of himself**, in the sense that He will do nothing nor can do anything alone or separate from his **Father**. Jesus does everything in conjunction with the Father; with the same power, having the same will, being of the same nature, and equal to each other. For these words do not *speak* of any weakness in the Son, for he has by his word of power spoken all things out of nothing, and by the same upholds all things; he has himself bore the sins of his people, and by himself purged them away, and has raised himself from the dead; *so* they express his perfection; that he does nothing, and can do nothing of himself, in opposition to his Father, and in contradiction to his will.”

Jesus has a unique, divine, other-worldly, eternal, infinite, godly, devout, spiritual, relationship with God **the Father** that no one else in the world has. This is why Jesus could say, in **verse 17** to **the Jews** that “**My Father**” is working until now. God **the Father** was uniquely His and Jesus was uniquely God **the Father’s Son**. That’s divine!

Opening A Window On God

But make no mistake about it, although it may be dim for us in seeing how Jesus absolutely speaks to His oneness with **the Father** and His equality with **the Father**... **the Jews** knew exactly what Jesus was saying and what He meant when He said it. He made Himself out to be God.

John 10.33 “The Jews answered Him, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.’”

So when Jesus speaks about His true divine nature and equality with **the Father** Jesus is actually opening up a window to God for the people to see.

Mark Johnston says, “**the Jews** had been nurtured throughout history on the axiomatic (self-evident) truth that ‘**the LORD is one**’ (Deut. 6.4). In one sense they were quite right to react to Jesus’ claim in the way they did. But Jesus was opening a window on God and his nature in a way that up until now had not been known. What was revealed in a somewhat shadowy form in the Old Testament about the three-in-oneness of God was now being presented in the flesh in the revelation of Jesus Christ as God incarnate.”

So **the Jews** rightly believed that **the LORD is one**, but in their belief it had little to no room for the plurality of the Godhead and surely no mere man would ever be God in the flesh. So in Jesus' revelation to them of His deity and equality with God **the Father** He was actually teaching them the fullest truth of the LORD being one!

Their Absolute Union Of Essence (v.19)

“for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.”

One commentator says, “This is as high an assertion as possible of His being equal with God. If one does all that another does, or can do, then there is proof of equality. If **the Son** does all that **the Father** does, then, like Him, He must be almighty, omniscient, all-present, and infinite in every perfection; or, in other words, He must be God.”

Augustine remarks, “Our Lord does not say, whatsoever **the Father** doeth **the Son** does other things *like them*, but *He says He does* the very same things...If **the Son** doeth the same things, and **in like manner**, then let **the Jew** be silenced, the Christian believe, and the heretic be convinced: **the Son** is equal with **the Father**.”

Jesus says He can do nothing of Himself, *“unless it is something that He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.”*

How can God **the Father**, who is Spirit, do anything where **the Son** can see Him doing it? What a question! What a thought!

The phrase **something that He sees the Father doing** is actually very simple and to the point. **The Son sees the Father doing things and whatever the Son sees those things that He sees the Father doing are the same things that the Son is doing and in like manner.** Poof!!!

John Gill, “Jesus being brought up with God **the Father**, and lying in his bosom, was privy to the whole plan of his works, and saw in his nature and infinite mind, and in his vast counsels, purposes, and designs, all that he was doing, or would do, and so did the same, or acted agreeably to them; and which still shows and proves their unity of nature, and perfect equality, since there was nothing in **the Father's** mind but was known to **the Son**, seen, and observed, and acted up to by him.”

So Jesus speaks of the oneness of His mind and works with God **the Father**. Jesus was so intimately acquainted with God **the Father's** mind and heart and will that He could **see** God the Father's works from His mind, heart, and will. These were the very works that He saw **the Father** doing throughout the earth. These works that were in the mind of God **the Father** from all eternity are now being lived out in His Son Jesus Christ.

This is why we are going to read over and over again that Jesus confesses to do nothing apart from **the Father**. Because they are so intimately one and in harmony together that each and every work that Jesus does is absolutely in accordance with the works of God **the Father**.

Jesus, the Son of God, has a vision of God that no other man has. And if Jesus has a vision and understanding into the eternal and infinite mind of God that no other man has, then Jesus must also be God, one in essence with the Father.

Do you see who this man Jesus is? Can you see His power? Can you see His glory? Can you see the fullness of His deity in bodily form? Can you see Him!

Do you believe in Him? Are you persuaded and convinced that Jesus is indeed God in the flesh? Do you believe in Him?

Then how can you be a casual follower of Jesus? How can you NOT be consumed with the sheer weight of His glory when you see Him for who He is and then you say that you believe in Him and then go and live life as if this is all there was to live for? How can that be?

Jesus tells these people right here in **John 5.19**, the very people who are seeking to kill Him that He **sees His Father** working until now. He **sees** all that **the Father** does and He is so moved by His **Father** that He too does the works that His **Father** does.

What is Jesus' motivation to do the works of **the Father**?

There's A Divine Union Of Love (v.20)

“For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing;”

The way that John uses this word **love *phileo*** from **the Father** to **the Son** is in the present tense and it has the weight of “an eternally uninterrupted and all-knowing **love** that leaves no room for ignorance, making it impossible for Jesus to have been unaware of God's will, whether about the Sabbath, or about anything else.” (MacArthur) **“For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing.”**

And this **love/*phileo*** love motivation is an eternal and deep abiding **love** between **the Father** and **the Son**. And what springs from this eternal and abiding **love** is **the Father** continually showing **the Son all the things that He is doing**. There's never a moment in the unified mind of God **the Father** and **the Son** where **the Father** does not **love the Son** and does now **show Him all the things that He is doing**.

And so what would naturally flow from a deep abiding and eternal love from God **the Father** to **the Son**? Infinite love from **the Father showing** Jesus even **greater works!**

Greater Works To Come (v.20)

“and the Father will show Him greater works than these,”

The **greater works than these** are mentioned in the immediate context in **verse 21-22** (Read). So **the greater works** have to do with Jesus raising people from the dead and being the Judge. These will be some of **the greater works** that Jesus will do than the ones He has already done like healing the paralyzed man. The word greater is *me gas*. Jesus is going to do **mega** works!

He will raise people from the dead. He will sit as Judge over all creation. His works among the people and His works from the throne of glory will be *megas--mega!!!*

But what is **the Father's** motivation in showing Jesus these **greater/mega works** than before?

The Reason For The Greater Works (v.20)

“so that you will marvel.”

Don't forget that Jesus is among His enemies right here. They hate Him. They have been persecuting Him. They have been harassing Him. They now want to kill Him. He speaks back to them in order to show them of His oneness with God and His absolute unity with **the Father**. We see in this moment that **the Father** is working His works in and through His **Son** so that even Jesus' enemies might **marvel at the Son**.

Getting back to my introduction this morning...this was the great motivation of **the Father** and **the Son** in working these divine works. It was so that they/the enemies of Christ would **marvel**. **The Father** desires them to be filled with wonder, admiration, and to be awe-struck in the God-man working the works of His **Father**. There's something greater going on than a mere miracle.

The Father wants these people to be moved by His divine works. He wants these people to be moved with the dread and terror of the Holy presence of God among them. He wants their soul to **marvel** and to be filled with wonder at the greatness of the Son doing these **greater works**. And we know that some of Jesus' enemies will believe and some will not.

When I think back to **Luke 7.11-16** I see this **marveling**. I see this awe-struck wonder and amazement and fear of seeing these **greater works**. **Read Luke 7.11-16.**

What does **the Father** desire from the people seeing these **greater works** in Jesus? Fear gripped them all! God desires to put the fear of God in these people and only the fear of God can then lead to **marveling the Son**, admiration of **the Son**, and wonder of **the Son**.

Can you see how significantly important it is that you see these works and signs of Jesus? Can you see how significantly important it is that you believe these works and signs of Jesus? Can you see how your seeing and your believing should lead you to **marvel** at the Son? To put all your joy and delight in **the Son**? This is **the Father's** will through these **works**. That you would see, believe and **marvel** at **the Son**!

Listen, God wants your mind. God wants your heart. God wants your life. God wants your joy. God wants your eyes. God wants your ears. God wants your hands. He wants your feet. He wants all of you to **marvel** at **the Son**. To be filled with awe and wonder and amazement at His **Son**!

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. It is the Lamb of God who has mercy upon your soul where He not only raises people from the dead, but He sets the dead free from death and gives them life and gives them faith to live in that life for His glory. And you now walk in amazement of His love and power and glory and healing and deliverance and majesty.

There's nothing that compares to Him! So marvel at the Son and be filled with awe because there's something greater in Him, there is something mega in Jesus than you can possibly ever imagine.

Pray and plead with God **the Father** for us to be so moved by the glory of Jesus that holy fear comes upon us. Pray that we will **marvel** and be in awe-struck wonder at the works of **the Father** through His **Son** Jesus. Pray that we will not, nor never would we, be casual lookers at the work and glory of **the Son** of God. Pray that God will move everyone this morning with Holy fear and Holy wonder as we look upon Almighty God in the flesh working the works of **His Father**!

Listen, Jesus died so that you would **marvel** and worship God. Your sin corrupted and destroyed the very reason why you were created. Your sin destroyed your worship of God. Jesus died so that your worship, your **marveling**, your glorifying can be placed back on God.

What do you **marvel** at these days? What do you consider glorious? What do you see as glorious? Is it Jesus Christ? Is it Jesus doing the works of His **Father**? Do you **marvel** and glory in Him?

Pray that God the Holy Spirit will awaken our eyes to see and our minds to comprehend and our bodies to live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

If you're here this morning and you can't see the glories of Christ...plead with God. You are blinded to His glories and you need to see Him for who He is. But once you see Jesus and your eyes behold Him, that's when belief becomes real and belief turns into praise/worship/marveling/glorying/savoring/delighting/enjoying.

So that you will marvel!

Do you marvel?