

Theme: As sinners, we want Jesus to accept our perception of our needs and provide *our* solutions to them. Thankfully, Jesus will only do the will of the Father – which is always for better for us as we trust him.

Background: Jesus has avoided conflict. That is about to change.

Introduction: Burnt “points” and changing plans.

I. A New Chapter Begins

- A. From caution to confrontation
 - “The Jews” take notice, and it is not possible
- B. Jesus’ identity with the Father
 - 1. He calls upon “Father”
 - Doing what he does
 - Making himself equal with God
 - 2. He “works” on the Sabbath like his Father
 - 3. His authority is from the Father (discourse in 19-47)

II. The Word of Power

- A. The setting
 - 1. At the Feast (1)
 - Probably not *the* Feast, Passover
 - 2. Gathering the broken (3)
 - Blind, lame, paralyzed
 - NOTE: An appropriate description of the world without the savior
 - A source of superstition
- B. Jesus’ choice
 - 1. The subject of Jesus’ power/compassion (5)
 - A helpless invalid of 38 years
 - MAIN POINT:** God/Jesus is the initiator – not the man.
 - 2. The question – “Do you want to be healed?”
 - a. “God helps those who help themselves?” **No!**
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14; John 8:43
 - b. Is he looking to God or to “Fate”

APPLICATION: We can treat Jesus in this way when we decide how God can/must “fix” our problem or concern. “I know what I need, Lord. Just supply it.” But we are like those at the pool. We need the Lord to act as He chooses and sees fit.

- C. The power
 - 1. To heal! (8)
 - Healed completely
 - 2. To command obedience
 - 3. Over sin and its consequences (14)
 - Not all sickness, suffering is a direct result of sin, personal sin
 - Some clearly is as people experience the “fruit” of their actions

III. Who Broke The Law?

- A. The man who was healed
 - 1. Happened on a Sabbath
 - 2. Carrying a mat?
 - Jesus and the disciples could have carried him home, just not heal him
 - 3. Blame-shifting (11)
 - “He told me to”
 - Compare with Luke 17:15 and John 9:36-38
 - Betrayal – Foolish, not malicious (15)

- B. The man who healed him
 - 1. Healing on the Sabbath?
 - He would have survived until the next day (or after sunset)
 - 2. Commanding another to break a commandment

- C. The “Jews” who confronted them
 - Straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel (Matthew 23:23, 24)
 - Quantifying the law so I can keep it

APPLICATION: He came to his own but his own (people) did not receive him (1:11)

IV. Working Like the Father (16-17)

- A. Recognizing the Father’s work
 - 1. The Creator “rested” after his work
 - 2. He continues to work, governing his creation

NOTE: Sabbath regulations cannot impede God from being God (Isaiah 6:3; Jeremiah 23:24)

- B. Seeing the Son’s work (17)
 - 1. Doing the Father’s work
 - Doing nothing that falls outside of the Father’s work
 - Renewing and restoring God’s order
 - 2. The battle lines are drawn
 - a. Only one Lord of the Sabbath
 - b. Only one God

NOTE: Jesus power is revealed in restoration and mercy. They missed it!

MAIN POINT: The Father’s will is always better than my plans and solutions.

V. Working in the Son

- A. Prepared for...
 - Rejection or persecution when we do what honors the word of God – but it challenges the self-proclaimed authorities of morality and compassion?
 - Opposition for speaking the truth
- B. Proactive in...
 - Putting our plans at the Lord’s feet
 - Trusting the will of the Father as he answers our prayers in his wisdom