

Pt 26, John 5:19-24, Jesus Is God

A sermon series in the Gospel of John, by Pastor Byron Chesney at Porchlight Baptist Church www.pbcknox.com

John 5:19-24

19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth *them*; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

23 That all *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

We pick back up this morning where we left off last time in John chapter 5. If you remember, previous to these verses, Jesus had gone back to Jerusalem for a Jewish feast and while he was there, he stopped off at the Pool of Bethesda and healed an impotent man who had an infirmity for 38-years. This immediately caught the attention of the Jews in Jerusalem.

Just for context sake, let's read verses 8-18 again:

8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

10 **The Jews** therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry *thy* bed.

11 He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.

12 Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?

13 And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in *that* place.

14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

15 The man departed, and told **the Jews** that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

16 And therefore did **the Jews** persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

17 But Jesus answered them, **My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.**

18 Therefore **the Jews** sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

We studied in the very first Chapter of John, how the Jews rejected Christ. In fact, it says in **John 1:11** He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

This passage in John 5 is a glaring example of that.

Four different times in this passage we see "**the Jews**" mentioned (vs 10, 15, 16, 18). While this would encompass all Jews, it is mostly the religious leaders of Jerusalem such as the priests, scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, etc.

Despite the great miracle of healing that had taken place, the only thing the Jews could think about was how the former lame man had broken the Law. No thought at all about the miracle of God, the divine healing power, the mercy, and grace of our Lord. The only thing they cared about was their traditions and laws.

If we are not careful, as Christians, we can find ourselves more concerned about religious routines and rituals than we are the love, grace, and tender mercies of our Lord.

As soon as the Jews discovered that Jesus was the one that made all this happen, they turn their attention from the healed man and onto Jesus.

Look again at verse 16 **And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.**

They persecuted him by opposing him, trying to ruin his character, accusing him openly of being a Sabbath breaker. They went on a smear campaign to try and destroy his popularity and eventually destroy him. It says they "**sought to slay him.**"

Can you imagine having that much hatred in your heart for someone that is only doing good?

Then, to compound their hatred of Him, look at how they react to his answer:

17 **But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.**

18 **Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.**

Here Jesus points out the fact that the Father works on the Sabbath. Yes, he appointed the Sabbath as a day of rest and he ceased creating on the Sabbath, but he continued to work by doing good, by ruling over the universe, by causing the sun to rise and the stars to shine, by watching over creation, providing food for the hungry and healing to the sick. God the Father is not bound to the Law and therefore neither is the Son.

This was more than they could handle. He has committed blasphemy by making himself equal with God. They are completely beside themselves. You can almost see the hatred and anger spewing out of their black souls. So much so that they want to murder him.

This whole section is Jesus speaking directly to the religious leaders and he makes 5 claims to be equal with God.

In John McArthur's commentary he states the following:

Jesus makes five claims to equality with God:

(1) He is equal with God in His person (Joh_5:17-18)

(2) He is equal with God in His works (Joh_5:19-20)

(3) He is equal with God in His power and sovereignty (Joh_5:21)

(4) He is equal with God in His judgment (Joh_5:22)

(5) He is equal with God in His honor (Joh_5:23)

And, that is where we pick up in our opening text in **John 5:19** Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

You need to be aware that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost do all things as One. One doesn't go off and act independently, they are co-existent and co-equal in everything they do. At no time do they oppose one another.

Jesus is point blank telling these guys that He Himself IS God. If God is doing something, He is doing something, because they are One.

Of course it is claims such as this that really upset the Jewish religious leaders and cause them to want to end his life. They charge him with blasphemy because he claims the deity of God.

It isn't much different today. There are many so-called "Christian denominations" that do not believe in the deity of Christ. They may believe he was a great man, a great leader, a great teacher but they do not see him as God. They reject the doctrine of the Trinity – we call that Nontrinitarians.

Some of largest of those denominations are:

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)
2. Jehovah Witnesses
3. Christian Scientists
4. Unitarian Universalists
5. Seventh Day Adventists
 - Most all of these say Jesus is subordinate to God.

And of course non-Christian religious groups:

1. Jews
2. Islam (Saudi Arabia)
3. Buddhists (Indian)
4. Hindus (Indian)
5. Sikhi (Indian)
 - All these groups reject Jesus Christ

The Gospel of John started out by announcing that Jesus is God:

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

The truth is, if you reject Jesus as God then you may as well reject the entire Bible because it is the main truth of the Bible.

20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. **21** For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

This statement really blows away the religious leaders. Jesus is now claiming that he can give life. That's what that word "quickeneth" means – **to give life**. To give life is the most powerful thing in the world. Sure, these Jews believe that God can give life, but they certainly do not believe that Jesus can do the same; however, that's exactly what he is saying. In other words, Jesus is claiming to have the same power as God.

22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

I remember preaching on this verse one time and a couple that was visiting the Church was blown away. They said they had never heard such a thing – that God gave the power to judge unto the Son.

Again, it goes back to the fact that Jesus is God. If anyone has the power and authority to judge, it is the Lord Jesus.

So many times we try and compare ourselves against other people. "Well, I'm much better than so and so." We somehow think if we live a better life than others around us then we are superior. But the truth is, if we compare ourselves with Christ, then we will find that we fall very short. We are like Belshazzar seeing the writing on the wall: "... **Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.**" – Daniel 5:27

So Jesus claims to be co-equal with God in Judgment.

23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

Here Jesus lays claim to deserving the same honor as God is given.

We read in **Philippians 2:9-11** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Those that do not honor the Lord Jesus will stand before him one day and they will have no choice but to honor him.

Yes, our God is a loving God.

Yes, our God is a kind God.

Yes, our God is a forgiving God.

But there is a price for rejecting him and not honoring him. Listen to what the Bible says in **Psalms 2:1-5** Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

What an awful thing to think about, God laughing at you. But that's what the Bible says. There will be a day when all those who have raged against him and dismissed him will face his holy and righteous wrath.

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Jesus gave them the answer. Simply believing in Him, believing His word will have eternal life.

But we know they rejected him despite hearing the truth. I think about all those in this world we live in who think they are so smart. They think Christians are ignorant and gullible because we believe in Christ. They laugh at us congregating together to worship. They make fun of us for praying. They call us names for believing the Bible; holy rollers and Bible thumpers.

There will come a day when they will wish they had believed, but it will be too late.

I don't want to see anyone go to hell and neither does the Lord.

Listen to what the Bible says in **2 Peter 3:9-10** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.