

Jesus' Equality with the Father

John 5:19-30

Introduction: Last week in our study of John we finished looking at the healing of the lame man at the pool of Bethesda. At the end of our study, we briefly touched upon the anger of the Jews because of a certain statement that Jesus made.

Notice John 5:16-18

The Jews were angry because Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath and because Jesus called God His Father which was a way of saying Jesus and the Father were equal. This statement pushed the Jews to the point of plotting to kill Jesus. Tonight, in our study we will see how Jesus responded to the Jews. In the passage before us we have the greatest statement made by Jesus on His equality with the Father.

➤ Equality in service.

Notice John 5:19

Jesus makes it very clear that He and the Father never work independently. Jesus states that He can do nothing of Himself. This means that whatever Jesus did it was always the will of the Father. He could not possibly act outside the will of the Father. If He did that would make Him "another" God. Let us remember what Jesus told His disciples when they returned from Samaria.

John 4:34

³⁴ Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Jesus also says that He does what He sees the Father do. The Father keeps nothing from the Son. They are so close that what the Father does is what the Son does. Therefore, He was stating that it was the Father's will that this man was to be healed on the Sabbath. Keep in mind that Jesus is speaking to the Jews/Pharisees and He is defending the miracle He just did when he healed the lame man. He is telling them that He was following the lead of the Father.

Therefore, to have an issue with the healing was to have an issue with God the Father. In the next verse Jesus gives greater detail.

Notice John 5:20

Jesus tells the Jews that the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He does. The end of the verse is very exciting. The Father will show the Son greater works than what had just happened at the pool of Bethesda and the Jews would marvel. What would those greater works be?

➤ **Equality in giving life.**

Notice John 5:21

Here are the greater works. The Father has raised up the dead and quickens them which means "to give them life" and this we have seen in the Old Testament. God raised the son of the widow at Zarephath by the hand of Elijah. God raised the Shunammite's son from the dead by the hand of Elisha. He raised the man thrown into Elisha's grave.

In the same way the Son also would resurrect the dead. This we shall see in John 11 with Lazarus. The Jews of Jesus day understood very clearly that it was only God who could give life.

2 Kings 5:7

⁷ And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy?

Ezekiel 37:13

¹³ And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

The point is that the Jews knew that only God could bring the dead to life.

Notice John 5:21 again.

Jesus claims the same power as the Father to give life and therefore is stating that He is equal with God. The miracle of giving life to the dead is what Jesus is doing today. He is giving life to spiritually dead sinners.

Ephesians 2:1-7

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

When a sinner comes to believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ he or she is born again and given everlasting life.

John 3:14-16

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Every time a sinner is saved today that is a miracle because they were spiritually dead but now, they live.

➤ **Equality in Judgment**

Notice John 5:22

We have discussed this before, but it is good to be reminded. All judgment has been given to the Son. There are multiple judgments that Jesus will conduct.

1. Judgment of believers.

Romans 14:10-11

¹⁰ But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

¹¹ For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

As we have considered before, we will not be judged for our sins because our sin was judged on the cross. We will be judged on 3 things. Time, talent, and treasure.

2. Judgment of unbelievers.

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

3. Judgment of the nations.

Matthew 25:31-33

³¹ When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

³² And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

³³ *And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.*

4. Judgment of Old Testament Saints and the Tribulation Saints.

Revelation 20:4

⁴ *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

5. Judgment of the fallen angels.

2 Peter 2:4

⁴ *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*

This is believed to take place after the Millennial Kingdom.

Revelation 20:7-10

⁷ *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

⁸ *And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

⁹ *And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

¹⁰ *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

Notice Paul's Words to Timothy.

2 Timothy 4:1

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

All judgment is given to the Son because the Son is a Man. No man or woman will ever be able to say to Him on Judgment Day, that He did not know what it was like to live as a human in this world. Jesus did live in this world as a human and He lived a perfect life. He is therefore the Perfect Man to carry out the judgments.

➤ **Equality in honor.**

Notice John 5:23

We need to notice the very first Word of this verse because it is pointing out one of the results of Jesus being the Judge of all mankind. One of the results is that **"ALL MEN"** will honor the Son. There are many people today who do not honor Jesus and in so doing do not honor the Father. But there is coming a day when **ALL MEN** will honor both the Father and the Son.

Conclusion:

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹ *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.*