

JESUS IS THE WAY AND THE TRUTH

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In John 5, we read about the healing at the Pool of Bethesda. This took place on the Sabbath. The man whom Jesus healed was walking, carrying his mat. The Pharisees saw this and wanted to know why he was working on the Sabbath. By their laws, he was working by carrying his mat. They him who had told him to carry his mat, and he replied, "The man who healed me." He didn't know who healed him. "Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place." (John 5:13)

Later on in the day, Jesus finds the man He healed. "Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." (John 5:14) Now the man goes and tells anyone who will listen that Jesus healed him. "The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him." (John 5:15) Jesus and the Pharisees were at odds because, "And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath." (John 5:16)

They can't control Him, they can't outwit Him. Therefore, they are out to kill Him. "This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God." (John 5:18) People try to control Jesus by putting Him in their own little box. They want to tell Him how to think, what to do, and how to do it. Jesus will never be in a box. The grave could not hold Jesus, what makes someone think they can control Him?

Jesus is the Messiah, God's Son, because He, God, said so. The problem is that the Pharisees would not believe that Jesus is the Messiah they had been awaiting for centuries. After all, this Jesus is the son of Joseph the carpenter. He could not be the Messiah because they had put the Messiah in their box.

Here is the problem. Jesus did things on the Sabbath that the Pharisees had declared as unlawful. Not only did Jesus do those things on the Sabbath, but He also claimed God as His Father. After hearing from the man Jesus healed, they still did not believe He was the Messiah and the Son of God. They could not and would not believe that Jesus was equal to God.

"¹⁹ Then Jesus replied, "I assure you: The Son is not able to do anything on His own, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son also does these things in the same way. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows Him everything He is doing, and He will show Him greater works than these so that you will be amazed." (John 5: 19-20) As usual, Jesus always gives God the glory. Jesus tells them that the things He does are not of His own doing, but only what He sees the Father doing. Jesus asserts His Sonship, but also shows that His power comes from God. Jesus tells them that I do what I have seen the Father do, and I do things the same way.

If that didn't get them angry, what about the next verses? "²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. ²² For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him." (John 5: 21-23) Jesus looks them in the eye and tells them He has the same power as God, and God is His Father. Not only has He given judgment to Me so that I will be honored also, but if anyone does not honor the Son, they do not

honor the Father who sent me. Jesus lights them up again. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. ²⁵ Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.” (John 5:24-27)

Now their discussion changes to judgment, and eternal life ²⁸ Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. ³⁰ I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me” (John 5:28-30) This could have brought this scripture to the minds of the Pharisees. “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to eternal life, and some to shame and eternal contempt.” (Daniel 12:2) Someday, we all will stand before the righteous judge, Jesus, and give an account of our lives.

Eternal life has conditions. The first condition is knowledge of the salvation made possible by Jesus' death and resurrection, a belief so strong that it results in the acceptance of Jesus as your Savior and being immersed in Jesus. Another condition is “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18)

“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.” (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

You must believe that Jesus is the Son of the living God, that salvation comes from Jesus only, and believe in the truth. The truth is found in God's word. Have a blessed week.

I Believe It (The Life Of Jesus):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-z1OK54Ae0&list=RD0-z1OK54Ae0&start_radio=1