

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to John 5

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the gospel of John

We are in the portion of John's gospel where he provides us with these divine appointments / these encounters that Jesus had with certain individuals.

And in our study last week, as we covered the first 15 verses in chapter 5, we learned about the encounter that Jesus had with this lame man at the pools of Bethesda.

And as a result of their encounter, we saw that Jesus healed him – the man had been lame for 38 years and Jesus gave him a command, "Rise, take up your bed and walk"

And the lame man was lame no more – and his life was changed forever.

It was a glorious revelation of who Jesus Christ is – remember, the Holy Spirit inspired John to write this gospel to remind us that Jesus Christ is God.

In our text this morning, we are going to see the reaction of the religious rulers –

Remember, Jesus divine appointment that Saturday was not only with the lame man –

Jesus was there to heal a nation of its false worship.

As they had lost sight of what true worship was and instead had turned to religion.

So, Jesus is going to confront and reveal Himself to these religious rulers.

### Let's pray...

Now, in our lives, when we really want to find out what is inside a person, when we really want to find what's inside us, it usually happens in our response to trials and tribulations.

We find out what people are made of, when they face great trials and difficulty.

We find out a lot about our lives on how we react to trials.

We find out about our character

About our spiritual maturity

About how much we really trust God.

You see church, it is true – trials do not create what is inside us, they reveal what is already inside of me and you.

Difficulty, pain and setbacks – they don't create what is inside us – they reveal what is already there.

For example, after church today – I am planning on going home and spending a good portion of the afternoon hanging my Christmas lights.

This means that most likely, that I will be using power tools, maybe a hammer.

This might not be such a good thing – especially after our feast.

So, as I am hanging the Christmas lights – trying to shake off the diabetic coma from our feast – I strike my hand by mistake, and the entire block finds out that I hit my hand because I screamed words that should not come out of a pastor's mouth.

My neighbor from across the street, he might come by and say, "Hey Herb are you ok? We heard you scream, we heard all those words, are you sure you're a pastor?"

And my response would be to defend myself, "yes I am a pastor.

"I really don't say those words – that's not who I am, it was the food, it was the power tools fault – if I had never had hurt myself, I would have never had said that."

Church that is not a true statement.

You see, striking my hand only revealed what is already inside me.

The power tool didn't put those words in my head – they were already there.

It revealed the fleshiness in my life at that moment.

You see church, the problem with us is that there is a lot of us, in us.

And what I mean by that is that there is a lot of humanity and flesh in us that God wants to reveal to us.

Something else that reveals what is inside of us, is how do we respond to when someone challenges us on something in your life.

A brother or sister comes to you and says, hey brother, hey sister, it appears that you are having a problem with anger, or you are not being a good wife right now, or a good husband.

How do we respond?

Do we become defensive?

Do we become argumentative?

Do we make excuses?

Do we not care?

When you are challenged in things on your life by someone who simply wants to see you grow – that will also reveal what's inside you.

And the reason I bring this up is that – this is where we find Jesus at here in our text.

He is challenging the religious status quo of the day and in doing so, He is revealing what is in the heart of the religious rulers.

And church, it is not pretty.

[Jhn 5:16-30 NKJV] 16 For this reason **the Jews** persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

Once again, I want to remind you that when John uses the phrase, “the Jews”, he is not referring to the nation as a whole – he is referring to the religious rulers during this time.

The Pharisees, the Sadducees and the scribes – he is referring to those that lifted up man’s laws above God’s Word.

You see, from our study last week, they are angry at Jesus – first because he told the lame man to lift up his bed on the Sabbath (which in their eyes was work – and a no-no)

But also, they are angry at Jesus because He healed the lame man on the Sabbath. Healing requires work – another violation of the Sabbath (at least in their eyes)

Church, as I mentioned last week, everything that Jesus did – He did with a purpose.

He chose this lame man out of the multitudes that were there at the pool in Bethsaida

He chose to heal him on the Sabbath, not the day before or the day after –

And He did it because it would expose the religiosity of the religious rulers.

You see, Jesus didn’t violate the Sabbath by healing the lame man.

**Nothing** in the law said that healing was forbidden on the Sabbath.

Turn with me to Luke 14

**[Luk 14:1-6 NKJV] 1 Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely. 2 And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy.**

**(swelling)**

**3 And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" 4 But they kept silent. And He took [him] and healed him, and let him go. 5 Then He answered them, saying, "Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?" 6 And they could not answer Him regarding these things.**

So, here in Luke 14, we see Jesus showing the religious rulers, that even their own rules permitted an owner of an animal to rescue it from a pit on the Sabbath.

So according to their rules, the sanctity of life of an animal was held as a higher principle than the law of the Sabbath.

And what Jesus is pointing out to them is – He is doing the same thing.

If the sanctity of life of an animal was held as a higher principle than the law of the Sabbath, then the sanctity of man – who were created in God's image, were to be held as a higher principle than the Law of the Sabbath as well.

You see, Jesus came to rescue men and women who had fallen in the pit of disease and affliction – like the lame man at the pool of Bethesda and some of those rescues were done on the Sabbath – which by their rules, was allowed.

Case closed right!

That is some airtight reasoning that Jesus made.

However, the religious rulers didn't buy it.

In fact, they began plotting how they might do away with Him altogether.

They plotted to kill Jesus

Think about this –

These are the same individuals who the following Sunday are going to be reading from the Torah to the people.

“We want to kill someone but, we also want to teach you about the things of God”

Think about the depth of darkness and separation of God that these religious rulers had.

**17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."**

When we read the account of creation in the Book of Genesis

**[Gen 2:2 NKJV] 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.**

God didn't rest because He was tired.

The reason He rested was because He saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good (Genesis 1:31)

He rested because He was satisfied with the work

It was a rest of satisfaction -

It wasn't a rest of inaction –

God didn't go lie in a hammock on the 7<sup>th</sup> day and do nothing.

In fact, what Jesus is saying here is that God never stopped working.

He rested from creation – but He continued to work back then and continues to work now.

He didn't rest from His love

He didn't rest from His compassion

He didn't rest from His involvement with people

Not only did God create the universe but the scriptures tell us that everything is sustained by the Word of His power. (Hebrews 1:3)



The earth doesn't stop spinning on the Sabbath, the harvest doesn't stop growing on the Sabbath and God doesn't stop saving on the Sabbath.

I remember going to a few crusades on Saturday evenings – and guess what? People responded to God's grace because God was saving on the Sabbath.

Can you imagine, reaching out to God on Saturday and hearing, "Please leave your name and number and I will get back to you tomorrow?"

God rested because He was satisfied with His work

And the wonderful thing about this church is that this allowed us the glorious freedom to follow His lead and say, "Lord, through Your grace, You've blessed. And now I am going to rest."

**18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

In verse 17, I had you make a note that Jesus referred to God as My Father.

And the reason is that the Jews referred to God as "our Father" and might occasionally in prayer say "my Father" but would always clarify it by saying "in heaven."

It was considered blasphemy to refer to God, as My Father

To do so would be to make oneself equal with God.

So, Jesus does it by referring to God as “My Father” and He also does it by connecting His work to the work of God the Father.

There was no clearer way of saying He was one with & equal to the Father.

The religious rulers understood this.

There are cults today who say that Jesus never claimed to be God.

The JW and the LDS state this.

Actually, He did, in the clearest possible way to the Jews of His day.

The proof of that is the way they reacted, as we see here.

**19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. 20 "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. 21 "For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to [them], even so the Son gives life to whom He will.**

Jesus goes on, piling proof on top of proof as to Who He is and what role He plays in the Work of God.

Jesus claims first of all, that His life is lived in complete submission to the Father's.

Whatever Jesus does, the Father is actually doing through Him.

This is why later in the Gospel of John, Philip, one of His disciples will say to Jesus  
“Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

And Jesus will respond

– “He who has seen Me has seen the Father;

Jesus said there’s nothing the Father knows He hasn’t shown the Son, their knowledge  
is co-equal.

The very power to raise the dead to life, a power only God possesses, is a power  
Jesus has.

Speaking to Martha in John 11

**[Jhn 11:25-26 NKJV] 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He  
who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 "And whoever lives and  
believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"**

Jesus can do a lot of things for us – He forgives us, He helps us turn from sin, He gives  
us love, joy, and peace. He gives us a new family.

But don’t forget the most important thing – He gives us life after we die.

**22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23  
"that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not  
honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.**

One of the great titles the Jews had assigned God was Judge.

We see this repeatedly in the Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel and in some of the Minor Prophets

Yet here Jesus says He is the agent of God's judgment.

Everyone will stand before Jesus Christ

For those that rejected Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, they will stand before Him at the Great White Throne judgement (Rev 20)

For the believers, we will stand before Bema Seat of Christ (1 Cor 3:13-15), (2 Cor 5:10)

Not because God is going to judge our sins – because our sins were already paid for on the cross.

Our judgment will be based upon our response to our salvation.

This is the where we will have to give an account of ourselves

This is where our works / deeds will be tested –

In verse 23 -

**All the honor to which God is due is only properly shown by honoring Jesus.**

I would keep this verse handy if you have any loved ones who belong to JW or LDS –

Because these cults – and that is what they are - they diminish Jesus

They make Him out to be a created being.

An angel or lesser god.

Someone less than God

**24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.**

Hearing & believing IN Jesus Christ results in eternal life.

No judgment falls on the one who come to faith in Christ because that judgment has passed to Him.

That's what the cross is all about.

Those who believe will not be judged for their past sins.

They will pass instantly from death into life.

**25 "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.**

Jesus isn't talking about a physical resurrection that will take place in the last days.

He'll talk about that a little later.

He is talking about people who were “spiritually dead”, people who are separated from God.

Jesus is talking about you and me before we accepted Him as our Lord and Savior.

You see, Paul says in Col 2

**[Col 2:13 NKJV] 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,**

How could a “dead” person ever come to know God if they are “dead”?

By hearing the “voice of the Son of God”.

That’s what happens when we share the good news of Jesus Christ with another person.

When a person begins to hear that God loves them and that God wants to forgive them and save them from their sins, something begins to come alive.

**26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,**

Jesus claimed that His life was derived from no one; it is inherent and uncreated.

He is self-existing – as God the Father is.

Once again, He is declaring His deity.

**27 "and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. 28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 "and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.**

Turn to Dan 7

**[Dan 7:13-14 NKJV] 13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, [One] like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom [the one] Which shall not be destroyed.**

The Jews knew that a day of reckoning was drawing near.

They knew that there was going to be a day when the good would be vindicated and rewarded and the evil would be condemned.

Jesus here, verified that belief, but He says –

I am the Executor of God's plan.

What decides one's fate is how they respond about who He is and what He has done.

**30 "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.**

In all He has said here, Jesus was completely surrendered to the Father's will.

25 times, we find in the Gospels that Jesus asserts that the Father sent Him.

Church, Jesus had no program, no agenda, no vision other than to be obedient to the Father's will.

Jesus is in perfect harmony with the Father

All throughout the gospels, people were coming to Jesus and asking Him by what authority He did things – and His response, I came by my Father's authority or I came by My Own authority because it is the same authority – from God

I can of Myself do nothing – that is what Jesus said regarding His humanity and church, we need to as well.

Why? Because the bible says – without Jesus, we can do nothing. (John 15:5)

But with Christ – we can do all things (Phil 4:13)

I want to challenge you –

You see, we may pray for God's will to be done.



But I want to make sure that we pray that we may be in harmony with His will.

That His will, will be our will -

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the

cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word

and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

I think one of the things that is lost in the conversation that Jesus had with the religious rulers was His mercy and grace that He bestowed upon them.

Think about what He could have done – He could have rained down fire on them all –

But He didn't –

He gave them a bible study and gave them the gospel.

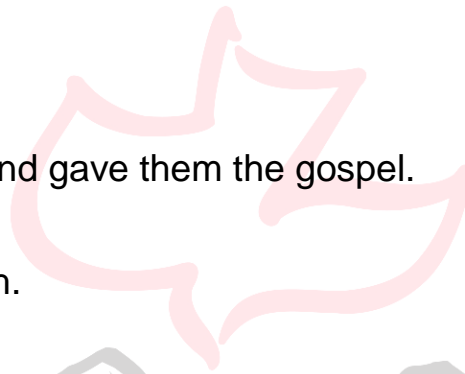
That's God's will for us church.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'



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