

“The Gospel of John: Jesus = God”

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Scripture

John 5:16-23

“For this reason, the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But He answered them, “**My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.**”

18For this reason, therefore, the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but **also was calling God His own Father**, making Himself equal with God.

19Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing**; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

20“**For the Father loves the Son** and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and **the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel**.

21“**For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life**, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.

22“**For not even the Father judges anyone**, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

The Purpose for John’s Gospel

John 20:30-31

“Therefore, **many other signs Jesus also performed** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that **believing** you may have life in His name.”

Many events in John not recorded elsewhere

Persecution Begins

Jesus intentionally healed a man on the Sabbath

He told the paralytic man of 38 years to get up, pick up your bed, and walk

The paralytic man did just that and then went into the temple to thank God for his healing

Then Jesus showed up and told him to sin no more lest anything worse happen to him

Jesus spoke to the Jews’ hypocrisy in creating man made laws in addition to the Scripture

The Sabbath was for man to rest -> Jesus came to bring that rest

We ended last week with **John 5:16**:

John 5:16

“For this reason, the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.”

The Jews ramped up the animosity toward Jesus

Why? -> Because Jesus was **calling them out as hypocrites** and **leading His people to ignore their laws**

Was Jesus an Anarchist?

Not at all... He just didn't like the hypocrisy of the Jews

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus was explaining the true meaning of the 10 Commandments

Matthew 5:17-20

“**Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.**” For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. “Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but **whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**”

The Scribes and Pharisees were clearly not Prophets

20“For I say to you that **unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.**”

The Scribes and the Pharisees will clearly not enter the Kingdom of Heaven without repenting

We're a Team -> He and the Father are One -> **Aligned on Purpose and Mission**

John 5:17

“But He answered them, “**My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working.**”

God does not stop working on the Sabbath -> Paul wrote about Jesus to the Colossians:

Colossians 1:15-17

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, **and in Him all things hold together.**”

If Jesus stopped working, things would not be held together...

Jesus maintains the universe, holding it together.

A geologist once said, "Looking at the structure of the earth, we live on a fireball that could blow up at any minute"

It's true, even little disruptions to the planet, **little cracks in the strata allow lava to flow** from the fiery centre

Recently, many lava disruptions have occurred in Hawaii

Can you imagine what would happen if Jesus wasn't "holding all things together"?

Thank God, He IS working alongside God the Father.

God = Jesus

Here we find the reason why Jesus highlighted the hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees

John 5:18

"For this reason, therefore, the Jews were **seeking all the more to kill Him**, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but **also was calling God His own Father**, making Himself equal with God."

The Jews found an enhanced reason to put Jesus to death -> **He said He was equal to God**

Jesus could tell them who He really was...

They called it blasphemy -> that was the charge leveled at Him during His crucifixion -> **He said He was God**

Was it really blasphemy?

I once heard: **"It's not boasting if you can back it up"**

If Jesus was God, then He was not guilty of blasphemy

Matthew 21:33-42 (Jesus told the Jews that it would happen to Him in a parable)

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who **PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A WINE PRESS IN IT, AND BUILT A TOWER**, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. "When the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. "The vine-growers **took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third.** "Again, he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them.

"But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, '**They will respect my son.**' "But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, '**This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.**' "They took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?" They said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the proper seasons."

Israel is the vineyard -> **Isaiah 5**

It happened exactly as Jesus predicted – the Jews killed God’s slaves -> the Prophets

It should have been **no surprise that they would kill the Son**

I Follow His Lead

John 5:19

“Therefore, Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing**; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.”

“Truly, Truly” -> repeated for emphasis, **Jesus is saying “I’m telling you the truth!”** (Verily, Verily in the KJV)

“the Son can do nothing of Himself” -> Jesus followed the Father’s lead

From an early age, Jesus followed the Father’s lead

Luke 2:46-49 (Jesus, at age 12, stays in Jerusalem while Mary and Joseph leave)

“After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You.” And He said to them, “**Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?**”

John 6:38

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

“whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner” -> **Jesus is following the Father’s plan**

John 12:49-50

“For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.”

Philippians 2:5-9

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, **although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name”

Jesus -> although God and equal to the Father – emptied Himself of His glory and became human

Paul’s great testimony to the magnificence of Jesus is powerful -> He humbled Himself becoming obedient

Luke 22:41-42

“He knelt down and began to pray, saying, “Father, **if You are willing**, remove this cup from Me; **yet not My will, but Yours be done.**”

Even in the last day of His earthly life, Jesus was faithful to follow the Father’s will

How much more should we be faithful to follow God’s will for our lives?

Matthew 6:9-10

“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. **Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.**”

When we subjugate our will to the Father’s will, we become more like Jesus!

He Loves Me

John 5:20

“**For the Father loves the Son** and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing”

Do we have any proof that the Father loved the Son?

John 3:35 (Jesus to His disciples)

“**The Father loves the Son** and has given all things into His hand.”

Matthew 3:16-17 (at Jesus’s baptism)

“After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.**”

Matthew 17:1-5 (at Jesus’s transfiguration)

“Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. 4Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “**This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!**”

Two times from Heaven that God spoke about His love for Jesus to the disciples

John 10:17 (The Father loved Jesus’s sacrificial life)

“For this reason, the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again”

John 17:24 (Jesus's high priestly prayer to the Father)

"You loved Me before the foundation of the world."

When you love your son (or daughter), you're going to bring him into what you're doing

Greater Works Are Ahead

John 5:20-21

"and **the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.** "For **just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes."**

"Greater works than these" -> More signs are coming from Jesus including raising people from the dead

God raised people from physical death in the Old Testament

1 Kings 17:17-24 -> Elijah raises the Widow's son

2 Kings 4:32-37 -> Elisha raises the Shunammite woman's son

John 11:1-44 -> Jesus soon will raise Lazarus from the death

After Jesus's resurrection of Lazarus, the Jews were heated:

John 11:47-48

"Therefore, the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "**What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. "If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."**

"The Son also gives life to whom He wishes" -> There is spiritual life indicated here

Romans 8:10-11

"If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, **He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."**

John 11:25-26 (to Martha)

"Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die."**

Do you have this spiritual life of Jesus in you now?

You do, if you have bowed your head to Him and accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Your Lord

Though we might experience physical death on earth, we will have eternal life with Jesus.

We will not experience the Second Death -> separation from Jesus

I Will Judge the World

John 5:22-23

"For **not even the Father judges anyone**, but He has given all judgment to the Son, so that **all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father**. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."

"For **not even the Father judges anyone**, but He has given all judgment to the Son"

The Son came to save the world...

John 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. **"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."**

But He was given authority over everything because of His sacrifice:

Matthew 28:18

"Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, **"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."**

"all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father" -> Jesus will receive all honor

Philippians 2:9-11

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

Psalm 2:11-12 (KJV)

"Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. **Kiss the Son**, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."

You can kiss Him now while you are on the Earth -> or cower to Him later when He returns

Prayer and Benediction from Jude 24-25

"Now **unto him that is able to keep you from falling**, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, **be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever**. Amen."