

**#18 – John 5:18-24**

**Need:** To see Jesus as He really is.

**Aim:** To see how Jesus spoke about Himself and His connection with the Father.

**Title:** “Like Father, Like Son”

**Prop:** In Jn. 5:18-24, John added an **I. Editorial Comment – Jn. 5:18-19a**, then Jesus spoke frankly concerning His **II. Nature and Purpose – 5:19b-24**, that all would understand that Jesus is indeed God and thus His words about life and eternity are true.

**Intro:** Over the course of my life experience, I have heard a lot of different things about Jesus. Here in the Gospel of John, Jesus presented Himself as the Son of God, God in human form. Regardless of this claim many believe there is no God and that Jesus never really existed. Others who claim faith in God think Jesus was a real man, but a misguided soul and a misunderstood individual who ended up dying for a lost cause. Yet others believe that any claim to deity by Jesus was actually added to His list character traits by His closest followers, the disciples and well-meaning Christians. He was only a good teacher who was willing to die for His claim to be the legal King of the Jews. If that be true, and it isn't, Jesus could not be considered as a good man. A great Christian thinker of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, C.S. Lewis put it this way concerning Jesus' deity: **“He is Lord as was His claim, or a liar and thus not a good man, or He was a lunatic,”** which some of the family originally thought at the onset of His ministry.

So what you think, believe, and do about Jesus is very important as He was the centerpiece of all human history.

The focal point of the Gospel was the Good News, that Jesus had come, God in human form, the Son of God, to die for the sin of the world. He willingly went to the cross, died and established the foundational pillar of the Christian faith; He rose from the dead and is alive for evermore! Many of the great religious teachers from history have a tomb, where followers worship and or contemplate the leader's teachings. But Jesus' tomb is empty. He has truly risen from the dead and is coming back soon for all those who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Paul said in I Thess. 4:13-18 **“The dead in Christ shall rise first, and those of us who are alive on the earth will be caught up together with Him in the air, changed in an instant, in a twinkling of an eye and will forever be with God in heaven. (My paraphrase).”** That is the great hope of all believers. Hope is defined as that which will yet happen. It is not some wishful thinking. All of this rests upon who Jesus was, is and forevermore will be; God in human form and what He did at the cross!

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**His words about life and eternity are true.** What we do with this is completely up to us, to believe and act upon it or to turn away and go our own way dependent upon our own means and plans. How is that working for you?

**Transition: In verse 18 we find a transition from the lame man healed on into the next section where Jesus boldly claims Himself as the Son of God, one of two reasons for which the religious leaders were seeking to kill Him.**

## **I. Editorial Comment – Jn. 5:18-19a.**

### **A. Jewish Opposition (18a)**

**1. Healing Brings Persecution** – The Jews were dead set upon doing away with Jesus, either to discredit Him, or even contemplate killing Him. In chapter 4, Jesus moved into Galilee to avoid persecution in Judea. But the central point of His movement was a divine appointment in the Samaritan city of Sychar, where He met a woman at the well, and the entire town itself came to Jesus through the testimony of the woman.

In the latter part of chapter 4, He healed the Nobleman's son from afar, along with many others who were sick or disabled.

**2. Continuation** – In the first 17 verses of chapter 5, Jesus healed the lame man and again was singled out again in verse 18 by the Jews. Their focal

point was that He was breaking the Sabbath and calling God His Father, making Himself equal with God. These were very serious charges for which He could be sentenced to death according Mosaic Law if His words were not true. But the Romans, who gave Jews the right to govern themselves and practice their own religion, reserved the right to mete out the death penalty. These religious charges were not enough, so Jesus was eventually charged, tried, convicted and sentenced to death for insurrection, seeking to overthrow the Roman government. That is what the official charge was for which He died, under Roman law..

## **B. Bold Proclamation**

**1. Public Revealing** – In the following verses, Jesus for the first time in John’s gospel was very clear about His nature and His relationship with the Heavenly Father. In many other instances His nature was veiled and left some doubt in the minds of others. But here there was no doubt about who Jesus was and what He was teaching.

**2. Religious Confrontation** – Most of Jesus’ preaching, teaching and miracles were done among the masses. Jesus had real power to change people’s lives while the Jewish leaders only had words and rules. So in verses 19-24, Jesus on this rare occasion spoke primarily to the religious

leaders, answering their false charges of His breaking the Sabbath and claiming to be God.

**Transition: In verses 19-24, Jesus gave clear understanding through the proclamation of who He was and who was behind His ministry.**

## **II. Nature and Purpose – Jn. 5:19-24**

### **A. Doing the Father's Will (19-20)**

**1. Relationship Between Father & Son (19a)** – The Son is dependent on the Father. Jesus did not act independently from His Father's will and purpose. Throughout this Gospel, Jesus continually asserted that His work was to do the will of the Father, to fulfill the plan of salvation. Equality of nature, the identification of the objective, and the subordination of will are interrelated in Christ. John presented Him as the Son, not as the slave of God, yet as the perfect agent of the divine purpose and the complete revelation of the divine nature.

How this all works is beyond my ability to comprehend; One God with three distinct manifestations, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit; all equally God. There is sense of order without any sense of diminishing of deity. The Father sent the Son and the Son sent the Holy Spirit. All three are equal as to deity, but as to work and function, a descending order exists for the purpose of serving mankind.

The Father sent His Son into the world, to save it, but to also show mankind what God is like. It was one of the disciples, Thomas who asked Jesus to show him the Father. Somewhat perplexed Jesus replied:

**“Thomas, don’t you get it? He who has seen Me has seen the Father!”**

Jesus was the physical representation of the Father.

**2. Son-ship – (19)** – In verse 20 the issue was that of Sonship. In Jewish society, the first born son was the heir of his father, and thus had the same authority when he became of age to use his inheritance and be treated on the same level as the father. Jesus used that metaphor to explain His relationship with His Father in heaven.

In the parable of the vineyard, the owner sent several servants to collect rent. The renters beat and even killed all the servants that were sent. So as a last resort the father sent his son thinking that they would respect the son, the heir as the physical representation of the father. They killed him and the owner brought mercenaries to evict the renters right out of this world.

In verse 19 Jesus clarified that His work was authorized and empowered by the Father and that what He was doing was according to the plan set down in eternity for the redemption of mankind. It wasn’t like God was caught off-guard by Adam’s sinful choice. God had a plan. So Jesus

was the fulfillment of this plan, doing exactly what His Father had determined.

**3. Intimate Relationship (20)** - In verse 20, Jesus continued to define the intimate relationship between Himself and the Father. The glue of their relationship was their love for each other. The Father approved of Jesus and His work and will continue to do so with the greatest miracle of all, the resurrection of Jesus which has been applied to all who believe. The penalty of sin is death, eternal separation from God. Jesus as the Son of God, perfect in all manner of words and actions willingly sacrificed His own life for us.

## **B. Work of Judgment and Honor (21-23)**

**1. Authority (21)** – To further bolster Jesus' identity, Jesus has the power as does the Father to raise people from the dead and give them life. This was not just a reference to physical life, but eternal life; belief in Jesus brings that dimension which Adam gave up through sin. It is that part which is dead; that Jesus brings back to life. Not only this, the Father also gave all judgment to Jesus, both in heaven and on earth. The statement was again to show the cohesion and collaboration between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**2. Resulting Honor (23)** – As a result of this relationship, the Son, Jesus receives the same honor as the Father. He who does not honor Jesus does not honor the Father who sent Him and authorized His work.

Herein is the thought: The authorities clearly understood when Jesus called God His Father, that is; He claimed to be on the same level as God. But Jesus went a step further in that He claimed to be doing the Father work and if one does not accept that, they have no relationship with the Father. The direct reference was that those who opposed Jesus had no relationship to God. Their faith had reverted to a twisted and distorted knowledge about God which had degraded into a set of man-made rules which added to the burden of the Law.

### **C. Final Word (24)**

**1. Truly Hear** – The terms of verses 18-23 were hard words about who Jesus was. It was not enough to have intellectual knowledge of Jesus. Many “**Christians**” claim to know Jesus, but the term “**hearing**” here carried the idea of doing. If one truly hears, they will believe. One must hear with action, not just verbal assent.

**2. Formula for Change and Eternal Life (24)** – One must hear Jesus’ words and believe in Him whom the Father sent. They will receive eternal

life and escape the judgment of God, having passed from the death of sin; into life everlasting.

Have you ever heard the words: **“If it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn’t true?”** For the most part those are good words to live by, except when it comes to salvation. All of mankind has ingrained within them a **“God-shaped vacuum,”** one which only God can fill. But people try to fill that vacuum with all sorts of things. Some think that denying that God exists excludes them from all responsibility to the Creator. God’s existence is not based on whether one believes that He does or doesn’t exist. Good people try to fill that empty space with good deeds with the hope that they will do enough to earn favor with God. Others seek approval through being overly religious. Paul, in the first 3 chapters of Romans purposes all these options with the conclusion: **“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** The only viable option is faith in Jesus alone. It is the only option the Bible preaches to reach God. Jesus said, **“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man comes to the Father but through Me.”**

Jesus was not just a way, He is the Only Way.

Jesus is God, and has opened the way to heaven through belief alone in Him, His death, burial and resurrection He alone gives life.

So herein are the options: **(1)** To hear the words of Jesus and walk away. **(2)** To hear the words of Jesus and believe. All other situations, challenges and circumstances do not matter. The good and bad of our life have no bearing here. Jesus has the power to cleanse, do surgery, to heal all the wounds of a weary and despondent heart. There are no sins that God cannot forgive, save the sin of unbelief. Has life beat you down? Have all your plans, hopes and dreams faded away? Jesus offers life, freedom from sin, and renewed hope in this life and the life to come.

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