

Gospel of John
[Jesus' Sabbath Discourse (Part 5) (John 5:31-40)]

I. The Setting of Jesus' Sabbath Discourse (vs. 1-16)

A. Healing of an Invalid (vs. 1-9)

B. Response of the Jews (vs. 10-16)

II. The Substance of Jesus' Sabbath Discourse (vs. 17-47)

-Thesis (v. 17): Jesus aligns His Messianic activity with the work of His Father.

-Jesus' argument amounts to a claim of deity (v. 18).

A. The Thesis Developed (vs. 19-23)

-Jesus only does what the Father does (v. 19). The Father has entrusted to the Son the greater works (v. 20) of giving life (v. 21) and exercising judgment (v. 22) so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father (v. 23).

B. The Thesis Applied (v. 24): Jesus' Administration of Life and Judgment (John 8:28; 12:48-50)

C. The Application Expanded (vs. 25-29)

-Two Resurrections—one spiritual, the other physical. Some participate in the first (vs. 25-27). All participate in the second (vs. 28, 29; see Acts 24:15).

-Conclusion: The reception of Jesus' word brings life. The rejection of Jesus' word brings judgment.

-Confirmation/Transition (v. 30)

D. The Four Witnesses (vs. 31-47)

-The Need for Witnesses (v. 31, 32) See Num. 35:30; Deut. 17:6; 19:15.

-John the Baptist (vs. 33-35) See Ps. 132:16, 17; John 1:6-8, 19, 22, 24, 29.

-Jesus' Works (v. 36)

-The Father (vs. 37, 38) See Gen. 32:30; Ex. 33:11; Ps. 119:11; Col. 3:16.

-Scripture (vs. 39, 40)

Practical Lessons

1) Jesus spoke so that people might believe and be saved.

2) Take care that you value God's word.

3) Take care how you read God's word.

4) Come to Jesus while you are able to.