

Lighthouse Bible Church

December 30th, 2012

John 5: 19 – 23

Scripture reading: John 6: 35 – 40 Ps. 9: 1 - 10

‘The Father and Son are One’

Stand – Read – Pray

We have taken a break from the book of John for the last two weeks as we looked at the true meaning of Christmas through the songs we sing and through the way we worship Him, not only this time of year but all year round.

We’re coming back to the book of John and want to remind you of where we are and what brings us to this passage of Scripture in John 5: 19 – 23. You remember that Jesus, back at the beginning of Chapter 5, came to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Jews.

While He was there He walks by the Sheep Gate near the north end of Jerusalem and by the Temple of Herod. And by this gate was the Pool of Bethesda where it says **a multitude of sick people, blind, lame and paralyzed** were laying and waiting for the moving of the water.

They wanted to be healed and folk-lore said that when the angel stirred the water, the first one in would be healed. Well, this one man who had an infirmity for 38 years was by the pool **but** because of his infirmity he could not get into the water before someone else did.

Jesus comes up to this man tells him in Verse 8 **rise, take up your bed and walk**, and he did. This miracle healing by Jesus was done on the **Sabbath** day. So as the man is walking with his bed on the Sabbath day he is confronted by the Jews who say to him **it is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed on the Sabbath**. We looked at that in some detail dealing with Sabbath law.

And because Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath day and told the man to carry his bed and walk, He knew this man would violate the Sabbath day by carrying his bed and walking more than 3000 feet from his house, Verse 16 said **for this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.** Jesus wasn't supposed to even heal on the Sabbath.

They had a hypocritical religious system of laws, of do's and don'ts, that blinded them to the true saving grace of God through Jesus Christ. So He exposes the hypocrisy of their phony religion by doing a miracle on the Sabbath day to expose their sin and, as we shall see, the hardness of their hearts.

Well, at some point they confront Jesus and He tells them, in essence, that He is working on the Sabbath because His Father is working on the Sabbath, and every day, when it comes to His display of grace and mercy in the lives of those in need. We saw in **Matthew 12: 8** that Jesus said **the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath** and in **Mark 2: ;27** that **the Sabbath was made for man not man for the Sabbath.**

When Jesus identifies God as '**My Father**', in Verse 17, that upset the Jews even more because He is in essence saying that I am God and I can do what I want on the Sabbath or any day.

So Verse 18 says **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.** They got who Jesus claimed to be. O, they didn't believe it but they got it and they never deny Him making such a claim.

And so Jesus begins in Verse 19 to the end of the chapter to tell the Jews why He broke the Sabbath and about His **relationship** with the Father and His **equality** with the Father and His **mission** from the Father and then indicts them for the hardness of their hearts in their unbelief. *I'm sure he would do the same today.*

And by the time He is finished here, the hearts of the religious unbelieving Jews will not be convicted of their sin or humbled by who Christ is, they will do whatever they can to have Him killed.

The Jewish religious leaders, like many people today, don't believe that Jesus is God in human form. And, as we have said before, if you don't believe the Jesus of the Bible being God the Son, God in human form, the reason we celebrated Christmas Immanuel – God with us, then everything you believe about your Jesus is a lie and you are lost in your sin.

John, who also wrote 1st John, says in **1st John 1: 22 – 23** **who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either.**

1st John 4: 2 – 4 says **every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God and this is the spirit of antichrist. Later in Verse 15 he says whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.**

The deity of Jesus Christ, along with the Bible being the Word of God, are the two most often criticized and attacked doctrines, even in our time. So our study of this doctrine of the deity of Christ in this passage is essential to know and understand so that we can share the Christ of the Bible with a lost and dying world, with your Mormon friends or J.W.'s or whoever.

Everyone else in John Chapters 1 – 5 have been claiming that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and now Jesus Himself is going to claim that that is exactly who He is.

He started it in Verse 17 by saying **My Father** and they got it. He says in **John 10: 30** that **I and My Father are one** and they got it there too, because 3 verses later they try to stone Him because, they say, **You being a Man make Yourself God**. He tells His disciples in **John 14: 9** that **He who has seen Me has** (what) **seen the Father**.

So Jesus is either God or He is not. If you believe He is then you need to listen to Him and do what He says, and if He is not, then why are you here? Jesus has told them that He is equal with God by who He is and now He is going to tell them He is equal with God by what He does. So let's pick it up in Verse 19

Verse 19: the 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.

Jesus says, ‘what I am about to tell you is absolutely essential for you to hear because it is the absolute truth’. He says **amen, amen** in the original language and then He says **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**.

What He is in essence telling those religious hypocritical Jews is that ‘you can't accuse Me of breaking the Sabbath law because everything that I do, the Father does and I do the same things’. And ‘if you accuse Me of breaking the Sabbath, then you are accusing (whom) God of breaking the Sabbath.

The real blasphemers were the Jewish religious leaders, not Jesus. So He turns this around against them and, in essence, accuses them of blasphemy because they said that God was violating the Sabbath.

Jesus says, I do what I see the Father doing and you are accusing Me of violating the law? You are the ones violating the law by your traditions and you are the ones that have eliminated God from your religion and replaced Him with works.

Jesus said to the religious unbelievers in **Matthew 15: 3, 6 – 9** **why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition ... you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you saying ‘these people draw near to Me with the mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me and in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the commandments of men.** There is a lot of that going on in churches today.

In **Verse 20** Jesus says **for the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself does...**

Jesus again says that ‘I only do what the Father does because He shows Me what to do and the reason he shows Me what to do is because **the Father loves the Son**, the Father loves Me. It is a co-equality and a oneness in the Father-Son relationship that if you accuse one, you accuse the other. If you love one, you love the other.

Notice that the **Father shows Him ALL things**. You see, Christ does not act independent of God, because they are One. Christ does not do anything that is not a part of God’s will. He says over and over again, ‘I did not come to do My will but (what) the will of Him of sent Me. ***John 4: 34, 5: 30, & John 6:38*** says. And then notice at the end of Verse 20 He says **and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.**

What Jesus says is, ‘if you think the raising of a man who had an infirmity for 38 years was something, you haven’t seen anything yet.

You will see much greater miracles than that, **that the Father will show Me and I will do, that you may marvel.** And One way He will show that is by what He says He will do in Verse 21

Verse 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

Jesus tells these unbelieving religious Jews that God has the power to raise people from the dead, which they probably already knew from many Old Testament passages where God, through some of His prophets, raised people from the dead.

But what would have really gotten to them was that He said **even so the Son gives life to whom He will.** I don't know if you understand the implications of that or not, but it is quite incredible from a couple of different perspectives.

Number one, Jesus has the power to raise the dead. Those Jews were about to get a demonstration of that power soon enough. He would raise Lazarus from the dead as **John 11: 44** shows, He would raise Jairus' daughter as **Matthew 9: 25** shows.

He even tells the disciples of John the Baptist when John asks in **Luke 7: 19 are You the one or do we seek another** and Jesus' response in **Verse 22 is go tell John the things you have seen and heard; the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf heard and the Dead are Raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.**

Jesus Himself will be raised from the dead and He will later claim in **John 11: 25 to be the resurrection and the life and that whoever lives and believes in**

Jesus Himself will raise all of the dead in Christ at the rapture of the church as **1st Thessalonians 4: 16** says. Not only that but as we shall see later in John 5 that He will raise everyone from the dead; some to eternal life, some to eternal damnation.

And you want to know something, just like His claims to deity, His enemies don't ever deny His claim and they won't be able to deny His claim to have the power to raise someone from the dead, they will just deny the source of the power.

What else Jesus was saying by saying **even so the Son gives life to whom He will** is that He has the **Sovereign** power to choose whom He wills to raise to eternal life. But remember what He chooses, the Father has already chosen. That is why Jesus will say later in **John 6: 37** **all that the Father gives Me will come to Me and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

This is an incredible truth that the Jewish religious leaders hated Him for saying. He is saying that I am God and I choose whom I will to raise to eternal life. And the implication is, that they are going to hear later, is that they are not part of the sovereignly chosen of God to be saved. Then He tells them the reason why in Verse 22, because He has been given the authority to judge every person's sin. Jesus gives life to whom He wills based on His authority to judge all people on the last day.

Verse 22 – 23 for the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 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.

In **Psalm 9: 7 – 8** it says He has prepared His throne for judgment, He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.

In the Old Testament, God is the judge of all the world. In the New Testament we see Him giving over that judgment to the Son. Why? Because He will judge in righteousness and uprightness just like God did because they are one in the same.

Christ is equal with God in His authority and right to judge all mankind and His judgment will simply be on whether someone receives or rejects Him and His words. In **John 12: 48** Christ says **He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him, the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.**

That is why it is so important for someone to know exactly who Jesus is because if you receive Him any other way than how He is presented in the Bible, you are rejecting Him.

And then when you believe in or follow an unbiblical Jesus you then begin to follow unbiblical words that show you do not receive His words. When you begin to follow the Jesus of the Watchtower, or Book of Mormon, or the J.W.'s, you do not receive His words because they are words He didn't speak.

You begin to be taught another gospel other than the biblical gospel that has the power to save. Paul said in **Romans 1: 16** **I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ because it is the power of God unto salvation.**

But the Jesus of other religions preach a different gospel. It is a gospel of works, it is a gospel of good deeds, it is a gospel of religion, it is a gospel of faith plus works, it is a gospel of self-reliance, it is a gospel of feelings and emotions and experience that validate someone and not the Word of God.

Listed to what Paul said about that kind of gospel in **Galatians 1: 6 – 9**. Read.

And on that last day, you will stand speechless before Him and He will say those awful words ‘depart from Me your worker of iniquity, I never knew you’. God revealed the Son in the person of Jesus Christ and Christ revealed the Father through His words, the Word of God and to not receive Him or His word or to add to it or change it, is to reject Him and receive the judgment due.

In **2nd Thessalonians 1: 8 – 9** it says **Jesus will come in flaming fire taking vengeance or judgment on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes in that day to be glorified...**

Then look what Jesus says in **Verse 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.**

The Jewish religious leaders wanted Jesus dead. Jesus says, listen ‘if you think you are honoring God and yet you want to kill His Son, you want to kill Me, then you are neither honoring Me or God. You are rejecting both of us.

God and Christ are one and if you honor the One you will honor the other. If you dishonor and reject the one, you cannot honor the other, you dishonor and reject both. They cannot be separated in our worship and honor of them and in someone’s denial and rejection of them.

Everyone in this room has a choice. You can bow before God and honor him willingly out of love because of what He has done for you in saving you from your sin, or you can reject Him and His word and you will bow before Him and acknowledge Him as you suffer a Christless eternity in hell and then it will be too late.

You have a choice today. Choose you this day whom you will serve...

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Matthew 12: 8, Mark 2: 27
1st John 1: 22 – 23, 4: 2 – 4, 15
John 10: 30, John 14: 9

Verse 19 The Son does in like manner

Matthew 15: 3, 6 - 9

Verse 20 The Father loves the Son

John 4: 34, John 5: 30, John 6:38

Verse 21 the Son gives life to whom He will

John 11: 44, Matthew 9: 25
Luke 7: 19, 22, John 11: 25
1st Thessalonians 4: 16, John 6: 37

Verses 22 – 23 all judgment to the Son

Psalm 9: 7 – 8, John 12: 48
Romans 1: 16, Galatians 1: 6 - 9
2nd Thessalonians 1: 8 – 9

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