

GOSPEL OF JOHN
HAVING A PROBLEM WITH JESUS
JOHN 5:10-30

Introduction

How many of you have gotten into trouble with somebody for something you said?

There was a fellow in the mountains of the Northwest, sitting beside his campfire while he was roasting a bird over the fire when a forest ranger came up and asked him what he was preparing for dinner. He told the ranger that it was a seagull. A frown came over the ranger's face as he informed this fellow that it was against the law to kill seagulls, and that he would have to give him a citation.

The camper responded by telling the ranger how he had lost his way and had consumed all of his food. In desperation, he had managed to kill this seagull to maintain his strength. After listening sympathetically, the ranger told the fellow he would let him go this time with just a warning, and the camper thanked the ranger profusely. Just as the ranger was about to leave, he asked the camper, "Just out of curiosity, what does seagull taste like?" Thinking for a moment, the camper responded, "Well, I would place it somewhere between a spotted owl and a bald eagle."

Sometimes it is better for us personally if we say less rather than more. Well, this was certainly true for that man!

As we read this text, we might be tempted to think that it would have been better for Jesus had He just said less rather than more. **But we find that Jesus was not one to hold back! He boldly spoke the truth!**

In our text this morning we find the first mention in the Gospel of John of **the Jewish leaders having a problem with Jesus.**

Remember our context from last time we were here two weeks ago when we considered the story of Jesus healing of the impotent man who had been sitting by the pool of Bethesda, hoping to be healed.

He had been paralyzed in his legs for 38 years and Jesus asked Him if he wanted to be made whole. After he explained his situation, Jesus commanded him to get up, take up his bed and walk. And the man did just that!

GOSPEL OF JOHN
HAVING A PROBLEM WITH JESUS
JOHN 5:10-30

But there was a problem with what Jesus told this man to do in the eyes of the Jewish leaders. They were not happy with Jesus, because this was done on the Sabbath Day! In their eyes, Jesus broke the Sabbath by healing this man and caused this man to break the Sabbath by instructing him to take up his bed and walk!

There was no realization as to the Person Jesus proved Himself to be by healing this impotent man!

There was no rejoicing that this man who had this infirmity in his flesh for 38 years was now free from his infirmity!

No, there was only railing at this man and at Jesus for having supposedly violated the Sabbath!

Who did this Jesus person think He was? For Him not to NOT conform to the status quo in lockstep with the Jewish Religious Leaders...the Jewish Council (the Sanhedrin)...the seventy Pharisees that made up this council was NOT going to cut it!

Jesus, at this point, quickly become a thorn in the flesh to the Jewish leaders. To them, Jesus was just a renegade that did not conform to THEIR authority!

To the casual observer of what is going on here, it can be seen that if Jesus was trying to avoid confrontation, He sure was doing a lousy job of it.

However, the fact of the matter is that **Jesus was more concerned with TRUTH than He was with avoiding controversy! He did not avoid the TRUTH, but rather He profoundly expresses the TRUTH here!**

If getting along with the Jewish leaders meant compromising the TRUTH, then He wasn't going to get along with them!

Jesus told them THE TRUTH about Who He was and is and they, as had and opportunity to embrace Him or reject Him. And they chose to reject Him!

GOSPEL OF JOHN
HAVING A PROBLEM WITH JESUS
JOHN 5:10-30

It is meant to be that simple and it still is that simple. **Jesus lays out the FACTS about Himself—the TRUTH very plain and simple!**

JESUS IS GOD IN THE FLESH...THE EMMANUEL! (i.e. God with us!)

We find in *John 5:16-30* three claims Jesus made to establish His equality with God!

I. JESUS CLAIMED THAT HE WAS AND IS THE SON OF GOD!
(Vs 16-20)

A. Just As The Father Continually Works For That Which Is Good And Right, So Does Jesus!

Have you ever stopped to consider what would happen if God would suddenly stop working?

Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Acts 17:28 "For in him we live, and move, and have our being"

1. God Is Constantly At Work!

It is because of Him we breathe and our heart beats.

It is because of Him that the universe continues to exist.

It is because of Him that the creation is continually sustained.

2. God Never Stops Doing That Which Is Good!

This is the essence of Jesus' argument about those that are complaining about His Sabbath activity.

He is merely imitating God His Father!

He had done good and would continue to do good just as His Father does!

It is a matter of consistency!

So then, we find that Jesus acts like God and talks as if He is God!

GOSPEL OF JOHN
HAVING A PROBLEM WITH JESUS
JOHN 5:10-30

And to defend His God-like actions, Jesus claims to be equal with God because He is God! He is God the Son!

B. Jesus Claimed A Unique Relationship With God!

Not only is the Heavenly Father God, But God is His Father!

The inference was very clear to the Jewish mind.

Since Jesus claimed that God is His Father, He was claiming an unprecedented equality with God the Father!

For the Jew, there was no more serious offense than this!

C. The Jewish Leaders Considered His Claim As Blasphemy!

Their original accusation of Jesus being a Sabbath-breaker paled in comparison to this charge of blasphemy!

And for them, there was only one conclusion to be made. Jesus had to be killed...He had to die!

They could not let Him run free and make these outrageous claims and change everything that they stood for!

D. Regardless Of Their Theological Concerns, Jesus Even Claimed Unity In His Relationship With God!

Jesus' statements in this passage can be described as a formal, systematic, orderly statement of His unity with the Heavenly Father. But it was even more than this!

For if Jesus wished to avoid trouble with them because they misunderstood Him, this would have been a perfect time to clarify what He meant and what He is doing and to soothe their anger! But **Jesus did not do that because He spoke the truth!** Instead, we find that He put the Jewish leaders on the defensive.

GOSPEL OF JOHN
HAVING A PROBLEM WITH JESUS
JOHN 5:10-30

For, in effect, He asked them how they could deny the claims of One Who says that He is God and Who also does the works of God?

They accuse Him of daring to presume to act and speak as if He was sent by God Himself.

But for Jesus, it was not possible to act in any other way! You see, because Jesus was and is God, He must act like God! Which He did! It is *“like Father, like Son.”*

And yet, He was not yet done. For there were greater works to do yet in the future!

JESUS CLAIMED THAT HE WAS AND IS THE SON OF GOD!

II. JESUS CLAIMED THAT HE WAS AND IS THE ONLY SAVIOUR! (Vs. 21-24)

A. Jesus Is The One Who Graciously Bestows Life!

In the life of the impotent man with whom this all started, Jesus had extended grace to him.

He chose him out of all the others that were by the pool. And this is a reminder that it is Jesus that graciously gives life.

We do not invent it or make it. It is graciously handed to us by grace, through faith.

And this is how it happens...

B. When One Hears And Believes The Gospel, A New Quality Of Life Comes Their Way—Spiritual Life!

When we believe the credentials of Jesus (Who He says He is) and believe on Him for what He did for us, we are saved by Him and enter a new dimension that we did not have before!

GOSPEL OF JOHN
HAVING A PROBLEM WITH JESUS
JOHN 5:10-30

When we hear His claims and act on them, we cross over from the state of death to the state of life.

As a result, we never taste of the emptiness and loneliness of death. We know a new quality of life, characterized by richness, fullness, and beauty. He is our Saviour. But there is even more...

George Will writes in **Men at Work**: *“Baseball umpires are carved from granite and stuffed with microchips...they are professional dispensers of pure justice. Once when Babe Ruth called Babe Ruth out on strikes, Ruth made a populist argument. Ruth reasoned fallaciously (as populists do) from raw numbers to moral weight: ‘There’s 40,000 people here who know that last one was a ball, tomato head.’”*

“Pinelli replied with the measured stateliness of John Marshall: ‘Maybe so, but mine is the only opinion that counts.’”

The same is true for us. There is only one opinion that counts so to speak. It belongs to the One Who created all things!

III. JESUS CLAIMED THAT HE IS THE FINAL JUDGE! (Vs. 25-30)

A. Jesus Is The Final Judge Of Human Destiny!

Jesus becomes the judge of all because the Father exercises His prerogative of judgment through the Son.

So Jesus executes judgment and determines where everybody will end up for eternity.

B. Jesus Judges The Morality Of The Works Of Each Person!

Jesus decides according to what is good and evil. He decides according to what is moral and immoral, right and wrong. He is the dividing line.

GOSPEL OF JOHN
HAVING A PROBLEM WITH JESUS
JOHN 5:10-30

I do want you to note that our salvation is not based on works. It the gift of God and it cannot be earned. But His judgment is based on our works!

Those who have obeyed the Gospel receiving His life and His righteousness, they are the ones who have done good.

Those who have refused the Gospel turning their backs on truth and shutting their ears to the offer of grace, they are the ones that stand condemned.

Conclusion

Here is a question in closing—**Do you see Jesus as He is?**

John is concerned that we get Jesus right. From the very beginning of His Gospel, he has told us that the Word (meaning Jesus) was God and that the Word became flesh.

The Biblical testimony is sure! Jesus can never be put on par with Mohammed, Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi, the virgin Mary, Moses or any religious leader, because He was and is greater than any of them and all of them!

But the truth is, **much of the world has an image of Jesus as a good man with good teachings on how we are to get along with each other.** If that were true though, He would never have gotten Himself in trouble, and He definitely would not have been crucified.

You see, the facts don't match up with that line of thinking.

*C. S. Lewis in his book, **Mere Christianity**, makes this case well: (Many) people say about Him (Jesus): "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.*

GOSPEL OF JOHN
HAVING A PROBLEM WITH JESUS
JOHN 5:10-30

You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

So, here are our choices about Jesus:

1. Jesus Is A Legend!

If Jesus did not really live, then the reports of His existence are a lie. This is all nothing more than a legend. The evidence, though, does not really let us come to that conclusion. For we have more literary and historical evidence of Jesus' existence than we do for Homer, Plato, Aristotle and Julius Caesar combined. Yet, we all believe that they existed.

2. Jesus Is A Liar!

If Jesus did exist, but He knew that His claim to be God was not true, then He was a liar....A deceiver trying to pass Himself off as something he was not. There are a lot of folks in this world that make claims they know are not true and cannot back up. But there is that pesky resurrection that you're going to have to do something with! For it is the resurrection that proves it once for all that Jesus is God.

3. Jesus Is A Lunatic!

If Jesus did exist, but He did not know that His claim to be God was not true, then He was a lunatic. He was nothing more than a madman who was suffering from delusions of grandeur.

4. Jesus Is Lord! (*Philippians 2:5-11*)

If Jesus did exist and His claim to be God is true, then He is nothing less than Lord! He is the Lord of life, holding all life in His hands. Thus, the testimony of Paul in Philippians is correct!

Final Question—What have you done or What will you do with Jesus?

We are coming to one of two times of the year that many people make a casual acknowledgment about Jesus. That's not enough to get anyone into heaven!

GOSPEL OF JOHN
HAVING A PROBLEM WITH JESUS
JOHN 5:10-30

YOU MUST SEE YOURSELF AS YOU ARE!

A lost sinner who is bound for the second death in the lake of fire!

YOU MUST SEE YOU CANNOT GET TO GOD ON YOUR OWN!

YOU MUST SEE JESUS FOR WHO HE IS!

Recognize that Jesus is the very Son of God!

God in the flesh!

Recognize that Jesus is the Saviour!

He died for your sins! He graciously and lovingly offers each and every soul eternal life as a free gift! But the gift must be accepted by believing on Him!

Recognize that Jesus is the Lord!

In fact, He is the King of kings and Lord of lords—Sovereign God!
And because He is, He is our judge! He will judge:

1. Who stands righteous by His work on the cross and their faith in Him and His Righteousness applied to their life!
2. Who stands condemned by their own— *“The I did it my way!”* mentality!

There is no other choice! Make sure that you’ve made the right choice! Because without Jesus, you won’t make Heaven!