

Gospel of John
[Jesus' Sabbath Discourse (Part 3) (John 5:17-23)]

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

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

-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.

-The Father works until now, in providence (Gen. 2:1-3; Acts 17:28; Eph. 1:11).

-Strategy: Jesus doesn't attempt to correct the Jews' misunderstanding of the OT Sabbath command. Instead, He argues from their own law.

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

-Jesus is equal to the Father yet subordinate to the Father (v. 19).

-Greater works (v. 20): The divine prerogatives of giving life (v. 21); exercising judgment (v. 22)

→Proof of Jesus' Deity: He performs the works of God.

-Reason why the Father delegates these divine prerogatives to the Son (v. 23)

→Proof of Jesus' Deity: The worship of God is due to Him, offered to Him, and received by Him.

Practical Lessons

1) Rank and equality are thoroughly compatible with one another (1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:18-6:9).

2) Jesus rights the Sabbath from the wrongs the Jews had imposed on it.

3) Jesus' teaching compels us to recognize His divine glory and dignity.

4) Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:12).