

THE SOURCE OF LIFE

John 5:16-30

"How can I help people get a grip on how powerful these words are?"

Jesus' audience didn't get it. They didn't have a clue!

As opposition begins to rise, Jesus gives them a glimpse of Who they're dealing with.

He lays it out in a few simple sentences. **& they choke on it!**

This is simple—yet so powerful—**we can't get our minds around it.**

Religious leaders of Jesus' day don't want to come to the light and acknowledge Him.

Jesus 3rd teaching lesson flows out of the healing of a paralytic at the pool of Siloam.

3rd of 7 Signs to show that Jesus is Christ & God, so we might believe in Him & receive God's gift of eternal life.

Opposition Develops 5-12

John uses Jesus' words & deeds to prove He's God's Son.

Instead of accepting evidence, they try to destroy Him.

NOT because of lack of evidence.

They don't *want* to believe.

Even in midst of rejection,

those who trust Him find life.

Jesus shows his power over disease by healing a sick man at pool of Bethesda 5:1-15

HEALING CONFIRMS JESUS' AUTHORITY 1-9a

Paralytic has been waiting 38 yrs!

He has no confidence...

that God will heal him

that Jesus can heal him.

5:8-9a *Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat & walk."*⁹ *At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat & walked.*

Sick man obeys Jesus' command

—discovers he's well

Healing provokes conflict

5:9-15 9b-10 *The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,*¹⁰ *& so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."*

Rather than produce faith, healing leads to negative reaction because it's on Sabbath.

What's wrong with their priorities?

They don't care about the man

They don't care about the sign

They only care about their tradition

They're wrapped up in legalistic tradition; don't care about the fact that God has just given this man a life!

He's been healed after 38 years of suffering!

Man's response is correct:

11 *He replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"*

If Jesus can command a sick person to arise, he can command him to carry his bed

Healing motivates Jews to persecute Jesus 16-18

Jews confront Jesus about failure to follow their traditions.

They ignore evidence of the sign.

They're angry for 2 reasons:

They persecute Him because **He dares to heal on the Sabbath** **16** So, *because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him.*

Jesus responds based on **His Father's example** **17**

Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, & I, too, am working."

They try to kill Him because He claims to be equal with God! **18**

For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

They understand His claim;

they change the charge from

sabbath-breaking to blasphemy.

How does Jesus respond to their charge?

He doesn't deny their charge!

He IS claiming to be equal with God!

They understood what He meant.

Discourse affirming equality with God 5:19-47

Jesus' discourse, proclaimed in response to their charge, doesn't correct their impression.

JESUS IMITATES HIS FATHER

5:19-30

He observes what His Father does. **19a**

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing,

He does what His Father does.

19b *"whatever the Father does the Son also does."*

Jesus claims identity of actions with the Father.

No one can do what the Father does, unless He's One with Him.

That's what Jesus is claiming! He IS God!

Father loves His Son. **20a**

For the Father loves the Son...

This is the kind of love you expect in a family relationship.

A father naturally loves his son.

So *the* Father loves *His* Son—Jesus.

Father shows His Son everything He does. **20b**

...and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement He will show him even greater things than these.

You expect a father to show his son how He does things.

Focus isn't on *need to learn*, but on *the father-son relationship*.

The Father keeps no secrets; He holds nothing back.

He shows His Son everything He does.

Son is a "chip off the old block."

He does things like His Dad does them.

Because He imitates the Father, the Son's going to do greater things than those they've watched Him do.

They can't even imagine what He'll do!

Like His Father, the Son gives life. 21

For just as the Father raises the dead & gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

Among **greater things** Jesus will do: **give life to dead people.**

His Father has given all judgment to His Son. 22

The Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son...

His Father wants every-one to honor His Son.

23a *...that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father.*

People who refuse to honor His Son, refuse to honor the Father. 23b

He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

People who listen to the Son & trust him have eternal life. 24 *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.*

The Son will raise the dead

25-26 *A time is coming & has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God & those who hear will live. ²⁶For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.*

Son will execute judgment

27-30 *He has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹& come out—those who have done good will rise to live, & those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. ³⁰By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, & my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.*

All will hear His voice & come forth.

Those who do good will be raised to life.

Those who do evil will be raised for judgment.

The Son will judge justly

30a *By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, & my judgment is just,*

Son will judge according to His Father's will. 30b

"...my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

Jesus' discourse focuses attention on **His equality with God.**

Jesus is like His Father.
 Jesus does as He sees God do.
 He gives life, He judges, He receives honor, as the Father does.
 Jesus has life in Himself which He gives to others,
 just as God does.

In essence then, **Jesus claims to be equal with God.**

Implications of Jesus' Words

Implications for Jewish opposition:

If Jesus is *the* Source of life, they'd better stop fighting Him.

They better listen to His voice.

They better trust Him, and the One Who sent Him.

Implications for salvation:

5:24 *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*

This is His key thought:

Humanity is divided into 2 groups:

Those who listen to His voice & trust Him already possess eternal life—you can KNOW you have it!

Those who don't listen & refuse to trust Him stand condemned—they have not crossed over the line from death to life.

Eternal life isn't God's response to those who try harder!

Many accept concept of **balance scales** to determine whether our good works "outweigh" our bad.

Eternal life isn't the result of our hard work.

We could never be good enough to *earn* a place in heaven.

"Whoever hears my Word and trusts Him Who sent Me has eternal life."

Eternal life is a *gift* for those who trust Him.

Which group are you part of?

As Jesus tried to tell the Jewish crowd in His day, it's also true today:

If Jesus is Source of Life,

WE'd better listen to His Word and trust Him.

"Whoever hears my Word and trusts Him Who sent Me has eternal life."

Implications for comprehension of Jesus' greatness:

- * **The Father shows Jesus *everything* He does.**

He sees the whole picture.

He knows everything there is to know about God.

- * **Jesus *does everything* the Father does.**

We can't even comprehend how great that is!

The crowd's amazed at His miracles. *"They ain't seen nothing yet!"*

He's going to do a whole lot more than that!

- * **He's going to speak & everyone who has lived & died is going to come back to life!**

That's God! He gives life to everyone who ever lived.

- * **He's going to judge the world.**

–with justice –according to the Father's will and plan.

=> *"At the name of Jesus, every knee will bow & every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* **Do WE get it?!!**

Implications for the struggles of life:

When things don't seem to go *OUR way*, . . .

Do we realize Who we're dealing with?–how great HE is?

We can let go of our issues and trust Him! **He is Lord!**

We can acknowledge **HIS GREATNESS–HE IS LORD!**