

Christ, the Son of God
Studies in the Gospel of John

Equal with God
Lesson 5
John 5

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
February 4, 2018

Purpose Statement

Therefore many other signs
Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples,
which are not written in this book;
but these have been written
so that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;
and that believing
you may have life in His name.

John 20:30-31 (NASB)

The Prologue (1:1-18)

- ▶ Jesus is equal with God as the Word of God
 - Creator of everything “that has come into being”
 - The true revelation of God
- ▶ The Word became flesh
 - Announced by John the Baptist (Witness)
 - Unrecognized by the world
 - Rejected by “His own”
- ▶ He is the source of physical life and eternal life

Introduction of Jesus (1:19-4:54)

- ▶ The names or titles of Jesus – by John
 - The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world
 - The Son of God – superior to John; pre-existent
 - The Spirit of God upon Him
- ▶ The names or titles of Jesus – by his disciples
 - Messiah; One described by Moses and the Prophets
 - Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph; Son of God, King of Israel
- ▶ Jesus' title for Himself
 - Son of Man (i.e. the Seed of the woman)
 - The gateway to the presence of God – Jacob's dream (Gen 28:12)
- ▶ The first sign in Galilee (2:1-12) – submission to the will of the Father
- ▶ Cleansing of the Temple (2:13-25) – zeal for His Father
- ▶ Meeting with Nicodemus (3) – a lesson on true faith
- ▶ Meeting the Samaritan woman (4:1-42) – the Savior of the world
- ▶ The second sign in Galilee (4:43-54) – Individual/personal faith

Public Ministry of Jesus (John 5-12)

- ▶ The rising hostility of unbelief
- ▶ John 5 – Equal with God
 - The healing of the man, ill for 38 years (5:1-18)
 - A lesson on Christology – two questions (5:19-30)
 - “Who is the man . . .”
 - “What difference does it make?”
 - How can I know this is true? (5:31-47)

Healing at the Pool of Bethesda (5:1-18)

- ▶ A feast of the Jews (5:1)
 - Jewish feasts in John: 2:13 (Passover); 6:4 (Passover); 7:2 (Tabernacles); 10:22 (Dedication or Festival of Lights or Hanukkah); 11:55 (Passover)
- ▶ By the Sheep gate
 - “Gate” not found in manuscripts
 - Sheep gate only found in Nehemiah 3:1, 32; 12:39
- ▶ The pool of Bethesda
 - 3 transliterations from Aramaic – also Bethsaida and Bethzatha
 - A pool with healing waters – 3b and 4 are not in early manuscripts
 - Text does not comment on reality of the healing, only the expectation
- ▶ The healing (5:5-9)
 - No recognition of Jesus, nor request for help when He spoke to the man
 - The miracle – a simple command
 - The healing was immediate, and he obeyed
 - It was the Sabbath day – the key point for the story

The Jews React (5:10-16)

- ▶ Violation of Sabbath rule
- ▶ The healed man blamed Jesus
- ▶ Jesus appears to the man – “found him in the temple”
- ▶ The Jews were persecuting Jesus
- ▶ “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working” (5:17)
- ▶ A claim of equality with God
- ▶ The Jews were blinded by their “wisdom”
- ▶ The Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him

A Theology Lesson (5:19-30)

- ▶ Three points – “Verily, verily . . .” (5:19, 24, 25)
- ▶ Transliteration of Hebrew and Greek – “Amen”
- ▶ Truth or faithfulness
- ▶ The mystery of the incarnation
- ▶ “He emptied Himself and took the form of a servant” (Phil 2:7)
- ▶ A working description of the incarnation

Point #1 – Verily, verily . . . (5:19-23)

- ▶ Jesus explains the statement about Father and Son working
- ▶ Jesus can do nothing of Himself
- ▶ Jesus can only do what the Father does
- ▶ The necessity of His deity and the reality of His humanity
- ▶ 4 explanatory statements:
 - “For . . .” (5:19b, 20, 21, 22)
 - “because of this” or “for this reason”

Point #1 – Verily, verily . . . (5:19-23)

- ▶ FOR . . . #1 (5:19b)
- ▶ He can only do, and does, what the Father does – “in like manner”
- ▶ John 5:30 – He does nothing on “My own initiative”
- ▶ John 8:28-30 – always and only what pleases the Father
- ▶ He submits (entrusts) Himself to the Father’s revealed and secret will
- ▶ “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working”

Point #1 – Verily, verily . . . (5:19-23)

- ▶ FOR . . . #2 (5:20)
- ▶ The Father loves the Son
- ▶ The Father shows Him all that He is doing
- ▶ The Father will show Him greater things . . . so that you will marvel
 - His atoning death and resurrection
 - “My time” or “My hour”
- ▶ “The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the World” (1 John 4:14)

Point #1 – Verily, verily . . . (5:19-23)

- ▶ FOR (*gar*) #3 (5:21)
- ▶ The Father raises the dead and gives them life
- ▶ The Son gives life
- ▶ The Divine work of salvation is accomplished by the Son
- ▶ Compare Exodus 6:3, 6

Point #1 – Verily, verily . . . (5:19-23)

- ▶ FOR (*gar*) #4 (5:22)
- ▶ The Father does not judge
- ▶ The Son has been given all judgment
- ▶ Compare: John 3:17-18

Point #1 – Verily, verily . . . (5:19-23)

- ▶ The Father's purpose in the incarnation (5:23)
- ▶ Honor for the Son equal to honor due to the Father
- ▶ Failure to honor the Son dishonors the Father
- ▶ Honor attained by Christ's work on earth, raising the dead and final judgment

Point #2 – Verily, verily . . . (5:24)

- ▶ Eternal life and deliverance from judgment delegated to Jesus
- ▶ Hearing and believing the words of Jesus
- ▶ This is the work of the Father as seen in the Son

Point #3 – Verily, verily . . . (5:25-29)

- ▶ Resurrection power has been given to the Son of God
- ▶ The voice of the Son of God will raise the dead (John 11:43)
- ▶ Life is in the Father and Son (1:4)
- ▶ Jesus has authority to judge because he is a Son of Man
- ▶ An hour is coming . . .
- ▶ A resurrection of life and a resurrection of judgment
- ▶ “Do not sin any more so that nothing worse happens” (5:14)

Theology Lesson - Main Point (5:30)

- ▶ He can do nothing on His own initiative
- ▶ He judges justly – the just and the unjust
- ▶ He judges according to the will of the Father

How to Know This is True (5:31-47)

- ▶ The witness by Jesus – not true or not sufficient alone
- ▶ The witness by John
- ▶ The witness by the works of the Father by Jesus
- ▶ The witness by the Father
- ▶ The witness by the Scriptures
- ▶ They refused to come to Jesus (5:40-44)
- ▶ The witness by Moses – their accuser before the Father
 - They did not believe Moses – their view of the Law was false
 - Moses directed them to Jesus for salvation, not the Law
- ▶ A closed loop
 - They condemned Jesus by the Law – opposed salvation
 - They were condemned by the Law – missed salvation

Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man

- ▶ The incarnation – a magnificent mystery
- ▶ An unusual miracle – indifferent response
- ▶ Jewish hostility to Jesus based on their view of the Law
- ▶ A profound revelation – The Son of God/Son of Man submitting to the will of the Father and honored as Savior and Judge
- ▶ The heart of man exposed – unbelief and hostility to God
- ▶ A simple Gospel message (5:24)
- ▶ The Divine pattern for the Christian life