

## Like Father, Like Son – John 5:16-21 (VFC, March 3, 2024)

### The Backstory

This sermon follows Jesus' healing of the man at the Pool of Bethesda. He "rewarded" Jesus by betraying Him to His religious opponents. They confronted Jesus for healing on the Sabbath as a violation of the Law. Jesus responded, much like a trial lawyer would, by laying out the case for His deity.

#### A. His "Opening Statement"

*"My Father is working until now, and I am working"* (vs. 17).

- God is exempt from the prohibition of "working" on the Sabbath. Otherwise, the whole universe would fall apart (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:1-4).

#### B. His Defense

1. "The Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing" (v. 19).
  - Jesus is not only the ideal Son, He is the unique Son (One and Only – Jn. 1:14, 18 NIV).
  - Not only can Jesus do nothing apart from God's will (compulsion), but He also doesn't want to (devotion).
2. "For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing" (v. 20). See John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 3:1
3. "For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, the Son gives life to whom He will" (v. 21). See John 3:35; 11:25

4. "The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son" (vv. 22-29).

- During the final judgments (Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:11-15), the Son will be the judge.
- As a result, the same respect given to the Father is given to the Son.

#### C. The Witnesses

The Law stated that no one could be convicted without two or three witnesses (Deut. 19:15). Jesus gave not one, but five to testify of His claims.

- John the Baptist (vv. 33-35), the works of Jesus (v. 36), the Father (vv. 37-38), the Scriptures (vv. 39-40), and Moses (vv. 45-47)

#### D. The Power of Believing

- The verb form for the word "believe" is used 98 times in John. Of these, 66 times it either states or implies the necessity of believing "in" Jesus (John 9:35–38). The noun form is never used in John. Why? Because faith must be active in order to be effective (John 20:30–31).

#### Postscript:

"In the mouth of any speaker who is not God, these words would imply what I can only regard as a silliness and conceit unrivalled by any character in history . . . You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God."

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*. (Macmillan, 1952)