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Sermon Recap:
Jesus Claims Equality with God
John 5:19-47 | March 22, 2026

Sermon Summary

In this powerful message from John 5, we explored one of the most significant theological passages in Scripture—Jesus' clear claim to be God. Following the healing of the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda, Jesus makes bold declarations about His divine nature that left the Pharisees seeking to kill Him.

Main Points:

1. Jesus Claims Equality with God (John 5:19-30)
 - In His works: Jesus does whatever the Father does, in the same manner
 - In His power: Jesus has authority over life and judgment
 - In honor: Jesus deserves the same honor as God the Father
2. Jesus Provides Witnesses to His Deity (John 5:31-47)
 - John the Baptist's testimony
 - The miraculous works themselves
 - The Father's witness through Scripture

Key Verse: "That all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him." (John 5:23)

Three Resurrections Mentioned:

- Spiritual resurrection (now): Dead spirits brought to life through faith
- Resurrection to life (future): Believers raised to eternal life
- Resurrection to judgment (future): Unbelievers raised to damnation

The Critical Question: Born once, die twice. Born twice, die once. Have you been born again?



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5-Day Devotional: The Divine Claims of Jesus

Day 1: The Unity of Father and Son

Read: John 5:19-20

Reflect:

Jesus makes an astounding claim: "The Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing." This isn't a statement of weakness—it's a declaration of perfect unity. Jesus doesn't act independently because He isn't separate from the Father. They are one.

Think about the implications. When you see Jesus healing, teaching, or showing compassion, you're seeing exactly what the Father would do. Jesus is the perfect revelation of God's character and heart.

The relationship between Father and Son is driven by love. "The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing." There are no secrets in the Trinity, no hidden agendas, only perfect unity and love.

Apply:

When you look at Jesus in the Gospels, remember you're seeing God Himself in action. What does Jesus' compassion for the broken tell you about God's heart for you? How does knowing that Jesus perfectly represents the Father change how you view God?

Pray:

Father, thank You that in Jesus I see You clearly. Help me to understand that Jesus' works are Your works, His heart is Your heart. When I struggle to understand You, draw my eyes to Jesus. Amen.



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Day 2: The Power Over Life and Death

Read: John 5:21-23

Reflect:

Jesus claims two powers that belong to God alone: the power to give life and the authority to judge. "For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will."

We can barely understand what life is, let alone create it. We can't bring a single cell into existence. Yet Jesus claims the authority to give life to whomever He chooses. This isn't just physical life—it's eternal life, spiritual life, resurrection life.

And judgment? The Father "has given all judgment to the Son." One day, every person will stand before Jesus. For those who have rejected Him, they will be judged by the very One they refused. For those who trust in Him, judgment has already been satisfied at the cross.

Apply:

Jesus has the power to bring your dead spirit to life right now. Are there areas of your life that feel spiritually dead—your prayer life, your joy, your hope? Jesus can resurrect those areas. He has the power and the willingness.

Pray:

Lord Jesus, You have power over life and death. Breathe life into the dead places in my heart. Thank You that because I trust in You, I will not face judgment but have passed from death to life. Amen.



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Day 3: Honor Due to God Alone

Read: John 5:23-24

Reflect:

Here's the peak of Jesus' theological claim: "That all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him."

This isn't a request for similar honor or slightly less honor than God. Jesus claims the exact same honor that belongs to the Father. This is either the statement of a madman or the truth of God Himself.

You cannot separate honoring God from honoring Jesus. You can't say, "I believe in God, but Jesus was just a good teacher." That's impossible. To dishonor Jesus is to dishonor God. To reject Jesus is to reject the Father who sent Him.

How do we honor Jesus? By believing His word, obeying His commands, worshiping Him, and living our lives in submission to His lordship.

Apply:

Examine your life honestly. Do you honor Jesus with your words but dishonor Him with your choices? Do you justify disobedience for your convenience? True honor means surrendering every area of your life to His authority because He is God.

Pray:

Jesus, You deserve all honor and glory. Forgive me for the ways I've dishonored You through my disobedience and half-hearted devotion. You are God, and I surrender my life to You completely. Amen.



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Day 4: From Death to Life—Now

Read: John 5:24-27

Reflect:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

This is the gospel in one verse. Notice the tenses: "has eternal life" (present), "does not come" (future), "has passed" (past). When you trust in Jesus, eternal life isn't just a future hope—it begins now. You have already passed from death to life.

Jesus speaks of a spiritual resurrection happening now: "An hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live." Today is the day of salvation. Right now, spiritually dead people can hear Jesus' voice and come to life.

If you've been born again, you've experienced this resurrection. Your spirit, once dead in sin, has been made alive in Christ.

Apply:

If you've never trusted in Jesus, today is your day. Hear His voice calling you from death to life. If you're already a believer, live like someone who has been resurrected! You're not waiting for life—you have it now.

Pray:

Lord, thank You that I don't have to wait for eternal life—it's mine now through faith in You. Help me to live today as someone who has been brought from death to life, with joy, purpose, and hope. Amen.



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Day 5: Where Is Your Hope?

Read: John 5:39-47

Reflect:

Jesus confronts the Pharisees with a devastating truth: "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life."

They were Bible-saturated but spiritually blind. They had misplaced their hope. They trusted in Moses, in the law, in their knowledge of Scripture—but missed Jesus, whom all Scripture points to.

Jesus asks them pointedly: "On whom have you set your hope?" It's the same question He asks us today.

Is your hope in Jesus, or is it misplaced? Maybe it's in your good works, your moral living, your church attendance, your theological knowledge. All good things, but none of them can save you. It's all about Jesus.

Apply:

Take inventory of where you've placed your hope. Is it truly in Jesus alone, or have you added other things to the equation? Remember: you can be religiously active but spiritually dead. Come to Jesus Himself, not just information about Him.

Pray:

Jesus, You are my living hope. Forgive me for the times I've placed my hope in anything other than You. You are God, You are enough, and You are worthy of all my trust. I place my hope fully in You today. Amen.



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Blog Post: Tell Me You're God Without Telling Me You're God

You've probably seen those internet memes: "Tell me you have kids without telling me you have kids" (cue picture of half-eaten apples in the fridge). Or "Tell me you're over 50 without telling me you're over 50" (remember those ashtrays at McDonald's?).

The Bible never explicitly states in one simple sentence, "Jesus is God." But here's the thing—it doesn't need to. Throughout Scripture, and especially in John 5, Jesus makes claims that leave absolutely no room for misunderstanding. He's telling us He's God without having to spell it out in neon letters.

The Claims That Changed Everything

Picture the scene: Jesus has just healed a man who'd been unable to walk for 38 years. Instead of celebrating this miracle, the religious leaders are furious because it happened on the Sabbath. Their response? They want to kill Jesus.

But Jesus doesn't back down. Instead, He doubles down with one of the most theologically loaded statements in all of Scripture: "My Father is working until now, and I am working" (John 5:17).

The Pharisees got it immediately. They understood exactly what Jesus was claiming—equality with God. And it made them even more determined to kill Him.

Three Ways Jesus Claims Equality with God

1. In His Works

Jesus says, "The Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise" (John 5:19).

This isn't weakness—it's unity. Jesus isn't saying He's unable to work independently; He's saying it's impossible for Him to work separately from the



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Father because they are one. His works perfectly mirror God's works, done in the exact same manner.

Think about that. When Jesus heals, teaches, shows compassion, or confronts sin—that's exactly what God would do. Jesus isn't just representing God; He's revealing God.

2. In His Power

Jesus claims two powers that belong exclusively to God: the power to give life and the authority to judge.

"For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will" (John 5:21).

We can barely understand what life is, let alone create it. We can't bring a single cell into existence. Yet Jesus claims the authority to give life—not just physical life, but eternal, spiritual, resurrection life—to whomever He chooses.

And judgment? "The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son" (John 5:22). One day, every person will stand before Jesus. The carpenter from Nazareth will be the Judge of all humanity.

3. In Honor

Here's the peak of Jesus' claim: "That all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him" (John 5:23).

Not similar honor. Not slightly less honor. The exact same honor that belongs to God the Father.

This is either the statement of a delusional madman or the truth of God Himself. There's no middle ground.

Why This Matters More Than Anything

You might be thinking, "Okay, this is heavy theology. Why does it matter for my everyday life?"



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It matters because if Jesus is just a good teacher, His death is only an example of sacrifice. But if Jesus is God, His death has infinite value—enough to fully pay for your sin and mine.

It matters because you can't separate honoring God from honoring Jesus. You can't say, "I believe in God, but Jesus was just a prophet." That's impossible according to Jesus Himself. To dishonor Jesus is to dishonor God.

It matters because only God can save you. Only God can bring dead spirits to life. Only God can forgive sins. Only God can grant eternal life.

The Invitation Still Stands

In the middle of this theological heavyweight passage, Jesus extends an invitation that's breathtakingly simple:

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life" (John 5:24).

Notice the tenses: "has eternal life" (present), "does not come into judgment" (future), "has passed from death to life" (past). When you trust in Jesus, eternal life isn't just a future hope—it begins now. You have already passed from death to life.

Jesus speaks of three resurrections in this passage:

- A spiritual resurrection happening now: Dead spirits brought to life through faith
- A future resurrection to life: Believers raised to eternal glory
- A future resurrection to judgment: Unbelievers raised to face the One they rejected

Here's the sobering math: Born once, die twice. Born twice, die once.

If you've only experienced physical birth, you will face both physical death and spiritual death (eternal separation from God). But if you've been born again—born physically and then born spiritually through faith in Christ—you only die once physically, and even that is just a relocation from life to life.



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Where Is Your Hope?

Jesus confronted the Pharisees with a devastating question: "On whom have you set your hope?"

They had placed their hope in Moses, in the law, in their knowledge of Scripture. They were Bible-saturated but spiritually blind. They had all the information but missed the Person all that information pointed to.

It's possible to be religiously active but spiritually dead. It's possible to know about Jesus without actually knowing Jesus.

So where is your hope? Is it in your good works? Your moral living? Your church attendance? Your theological knowledge? All good things, but none of them can save you.

Or is your hope in Jesus—God Himself, who came to earth, lived a perfect life, died a sacrificial death, and rose again to offer you eternal life?

The Question That Demands an Answer

Jesus is God. The evidence is overwhelming. The witnesses are credible. The claims are clear.

So what will you do with Jesus?

You can reject Him, like the Pharisees did, clinging to your own righteousness and missing the very One who could save you.

Or you can hear His voice today—right now—and pass from death to life.

The invitation is open. The price has been paid. The God of the universe is calling you by name.

What will you do with Jesus?
