

Pastor Jim Jackson, 8/3/25
Days With Jesus, Day 12—Like Father, Like Son
John 5:17-30

Jesus BREAKS the rules

Arriving in Jerusalem, Jesus stops at the pool of Bethesda and purposely heals a well-known paralytic on the Sabbath. This miracle forces everyone, especially the religious leaders, to consider who Jesus is based on what he did (John 5:8-12). *Who you consider Jesus to be is what you believe Jesus is to you.* After he breaks their man-made rules about healing on the Sabbath, the religious leaders confront him about his miracle. Rather than admitting the truth of the miracle, they attack the miracle-worker. *Belief isn't a lack of evidence, but a lack of submission to where the evidence points!*

Jesus is the SON of the Ruler

The religious leaders believed breaking the oral law of the rabbis was at the same level as breaking the commandments of God. So, when Jesus tells the man to carry his mat, he's claiming greater authority than them and is at God's level. Jesus' perceived arrogance angered them and exposed their self-righteousness. *Godfidence is greater than self-confidence!* Then, after asking for what authority he had to change the Sabbath rules, Jesus claims to be God's *Son*. While the term 'sons of God' were used in the OT to refer to angels (Gen. 6:2-4; Job 1:6, 38:7) and in the NT to believers (Matt. 5:9; Gal. 3:26), Jesus isn't the son by creation (angels) or by adoption (believers) but by *nature*—eternal and perfect. His relationship to God is one of equality in power, perfection, and essence but different in personhood. In his role as the Son, Jesus is the Judge at the end of time, which is God's role alone (Rev. 20:11, 12). *The Son has the same divine genetics as the Father* (Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:15, 16)!

Jesus MAKES the rules

The religious leaders assume Jesus is committing blasphemy, which is worthy of death (Lev. 24:16). This would have been correct except that Jesus backed up his claim with fulfilled OT prophecy and miracles, so they were without excuse. *When God's at work, work with God* (Acts 26:14; 1 Cor. 15:58)! From this position of power, Jesus claims that he sees the Father's invisible work, and it shows him how to manage his life. So, when Jesus makes a decision, it is the decision God would make and becomes the new way for people to live. *When you follow Jesus you never end up in the wrong place!*