

JOHN

AND THE WORD WAS GOD

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

John 5:18–47

RELATED SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 18:15–22 | Luke 24:25–32 | Hebrews 3:1–6

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 3.29.26

SUMMARY

This week's passage begins with the Jewish leaders claiming that Jesus broke the Sabbath by healing a man, but they became more outraged that Jesus made himself equal with God by calling God his Father (vs. 18). Jesus' response in the remainder of John 5 is foundational to our understanding of the Trinity. In John 5:19-29, Jesus speaks about the Son and the Father. He continues to refer to the Father in John 5:30-47 but suddenly uses the personal pronouns I and me, making it abundantly clear that Jesus is the Son. His statements that the Father "raises the dead and gives them life" (vs. 21) and "has life in himself" (vs. 26) proclaim that the Father is God. By also saying that "whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise" (vs. 19), and "that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father" (vs. 22), and that God "has granted the Son also to have life in himself" (vs. 26), Jesus asserts that he is equal to the Father, and therefore also God. John 1:1 explains that Jesus was not a God or another God, but the God. John 5:18-47 teaches us about the Economic Trinity—the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each member of the Trinity is fully God while fulfilling a unique role within the Trinity.

Jesus knew the Jews would not accept his word alone, so he pointed to several witnesses to support his claim. He refers to the testimony of John the Baptist (John 1:34), the miracles he has performed (John 5:9), the testimony of the Father (Matthew 3:16-17), and the Scriptures, particularly the writings of Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15). Everything Jesus did during his earthly ministry was in fulfillment of Scripture (Luke 24:27). The Jews accused Jesus of breaking the Law of Moses, but in reality, the law condemns them because no one except Jesus can perfectly fulfill the law (Galatians 2:16). It is only by hearing and believing in Jesus that anyone can be freed from judgment and receive eternal life (John 5:24).

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of John 5:18-47.

How does today's passage support the truth that Jesus is God?

Early church history is filled with heresies concerning Jesus' deity as they worked to understand the Trinity. How does today's passage help clarify the unique role that Jesus fills as the Son within the Trinity?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.