

Gospel of John (lesson 15)

John 5:16

16 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him.

This is where we left off last week. Jesus healed a lame man on the Sabbath at the pool of Bethesda.

Exodus 20:8-11

8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

John 5:17-30

17 In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”

What work is God the Father doing? Jesus, as the first born Son of God, is the Lord of the Sabbath.

18 For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

19 Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does.

Jesus is in complete agreement with God the Father, completing the assignment to redeem mankind from eternal separation from God the Father. The “Son” refers to Jesus the first born. We who are born again children of God, can also see what our Father is doing and join him.

Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

The miracles validated who Jesus was, and his message to mankind. The supernatural move of the Holy Spirit in our lives validates us as a child of God and our message of salvation.

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²² Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, ²³ 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.

Jesus is both savior and judge of mankind.

²⁴ “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

This is a radical statement to the ruling leaders of Israel. Jesus is telling them that he has the message of eternal life. The leaders had a hard time receiving this message from Jesus.

²⁵ Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

Jesus is the judge because he experienced life as a man on earth with all the temptations, pain, and suffering. He knows what it is like to be humanly made in the image of God as spirit, soul, body.

²⁸ “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

The religious leaders understood that there will be a resurrection of the dead at the last day and the judgment of God.

³⁰ By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

Once again, Jesus states his unity with God the Father.