

The Claims of Jesus Part 1

John 5:15-23

15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

16 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. 19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. 20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. 22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. NKJV

The Apostle John has given us this account to show us how Jesus was opposed in Judea. It was not that Jesus was not opposed in Galilee, but that John sets up to show us the hatred that they Jews of Judea have for Jesus.

When Jesus is opposed, He defends His actions. And the claims that Jesus made are best described as incredible if not impossible. That brings us to another purpose of John, to show us that Jesus is none other than the Son of God, the Christ, the Messiah, the rightful King of the Jews.

These passages should also give us pause, to realize who Jesus was. And then to realize that He is now filled with glory and power, at the right hand of the Father. Let us see how great our Jesus is. Let us understand that He is not just a man, or even just a prophet as the woman in chapter 4 considered Him. Let us look who Jesus claimed to be.

- I. He and the Father do the same works;
(5:17) But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."
 - A. He is claiming that the works of the Father are the same as His and that He could do nothing contrary to the law of God.
 - B. God did not rest on the seventh day because He needed to rest.
 - C. He rested on the seventh day because we needed a day of rest.
 - D. God would give us a day on which we could worship Him and think about Him.
- II. He claimed God as His Father;
(5:18) Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the

Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father,

- A. This was not just a false interpretation by the Jews.
- B. He is the unique Son of God.
 - 1. As reflected in John 3:16 “The only begotten”
 - 2. No one stood in the same relationship to God as did Jesus.
 - 3. They Jews did not want to kill Him because He claimed He was an angel.
 - 4. They wanted to kill because He claimed to be the unique Son of God.
- C. John does not say that this is what they thought but it was not true.
- D. He reported it as a fact, not only of conclusion, but truth.

III. He claimed to be equal with God;
v-18 making Himself equal with God.

- A. Same word used in Phil 2:6 “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God” KJV
- B. NT:2470 ἴσος, η, ον: pertaining to that which is equal, either in number, size, quality, or characteristics - 'equal, equivalent, same.' τὸ μῆκος καὶ τὸ πλάτος καὶ τὸ ὕψος αὐτῆς ἴσα ἐστίν 'the length and breadth and height of it are the same' Rev 21:16; ἴσον ἑαυτὸν ποιῶν τῷ θεῷ 'making himself equal with God' John 5:18. (from Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain. Copyright © 1988 United Bible Societies, New York. Used by permission.)
- C. “Already in frequent use in Homer, *isos* and *isotēs* in their earliest stage express a fundamental rule in the sharing of the booty of war. Care had to be taken to ensure not only the equality of quantity but also the equality of value of the objects which were divided up. Hence, *isos* and *isotēs* indicate:
 - 1. *Numerical and physical equality*, e.g., of number, value (equal interest rates, number of votes, sums of money, dimensions in space or time; water and wine mixed in equal parts, etc.).
 - 2. By extension, *substantial equality*, e.g., of the copy with its original, of the assertions of witnesses, of the chances in war.
 - 3. *Political and legal equality*. The concept received a spiritual meaning in Gk. literary and legal life. Gk. democracy in the city states rested on the principle that all citizens possessed equal standing in society and enjoyed equal rights. *isos* and *homoios* were used as standing expressions for these political equalities. Judicial impartiality also rested upon the application of the principle of equality to all parties. Hence, *isos* became the expression for impartial, and came close to meaning the same as *dikaios*, just (Righteousness), so that the two concepts could be interchanged. Beyond

impartiality in the legal sphere the application of the principle of equality meant particularly that which must be conceded to every citizen, that which is right and fair." NIDNTT

- IV. He claimed to be in perfect harmony with the Father;
(5:19) Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.
 - A. Jesus is not say here that He is less than the Father.
 - B. He is saying that He and the Father are in total harmony, complete agreement.
 - C. That is the authority for Him healing the man on the Sabbath, that it is not only His work, but it is the work of the Father as well.

- V. The Father has a special relationship with the Son;
 - A. Love;
(5:20) "For the Father loves the Son
 - 1. But how is that unique from the Father's love for the rest of mankind?
 - 2.
 - B. Unique revelation;
v-20 and shows Him all things that He Himself does;
 - 1. Jesus is claiming exclusive knowledge.
 - 2. No one knows more about what the Father wants or does than the Son.
 - 3. John 1:18 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. NKJV
 - 4. Matt 11:27 27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. NKJV
 - C. His Father will give Him Greater works yet;
v-20 and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.
 - 1. All of these works were to demonstrate that Jesus was God's Son
 - 2. There are some things that not even Satan has to the power to do.
 - 3. But there is nothing too hard for God.
 - D. To raise the dead;
(5:21) "For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.
 - 1. To raise the dead is one such work left to God's sphere of power.

2. Only God has the power of life and death and resurrection.
 3. Jesus did not raise many from the dead, but at least three are recorded.
 - a. The daughter of a ruler in Israel
 - b. The son of the widow of Nain.
 - c. Lazarus John 11
 4. Even the apostles had power to raise the dead in the Name of Jesus Christ.
- E. To judge the world;
(5:22) "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son
1. To assure that Jesus receives the proper honor.
 2. Every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.
 3. All the lost will be judged according to their works and because they never accepted God's Son as the Lord Jesus Christ.
- VI. To be honored as the Father is honored;
(5:23) "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.
- A. No one is to be worshiped but God.
1. Angels forbid it.
 2. I had a JW tell me one time that every time someone worshiped Jesus that Jesus forbid it.
 3. I told him to look up all those verses and come back and see me, and he has never come back.
 4. Why, because it is the purpose of both the Father and the Son "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father."
- B. On the first Sunday after the resurrection, Jesus appeared to Thomas.
1. What did Thomas say?
 2. 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" John 20
 3. Now JW literature states that obviously Thomas was not calling Jesus God or Jesus would have rebuked him.
 4. Or it could be that Thomas was calling Him God and that is why Jesus said, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29 NKJV
- C. Jesus is called God by the Apostle Paul

1. Titus 2:13 “looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”

Who is Jesus to you?

Can you accept the claims Jesus made for Himself?

How do you demonstrate Jesus as Savior, as Lord?