

JOHN 5.1-30

JESUS—SON OF GOD

“

For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his Father, making himself equal to God.

-John 5.18

CONTEXT—

- ▶ John curated the many miracles of Jesus and presented just seven—which he called “signs”—intended to prompt his readers to *“believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God”* (John 20.31).
- ▶ More than the other gospel writers, John presented Jesus in Jerusalem, attending the principal Jewish festivals, and revealing himself as the Son of God who is bringing a new order

- ▶ This healing at the pool of Bethesda is the third sign that John presented to show that Jesus is the Son of God and to reveal his glory (cf. 1.14)
- ▶ Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath—prompting a confrontation with the Jews—and setting the stage for the discourse that would follow, in which Jesus declares his God-identity and interpersonal relationship with the Father

THE HEALING—

- ▶ The Jewish holy day is unnamed; the emphasis is on the Sabbath
- ▶ The pool was located by the Sheep Gate, a small opening in the north wall through which the sacrificial animals were brought to the Temple
- ▶ Of all who were there at the pool hoping to be healed, Jesus chose a man who had been an invalid for 38 years

““ Do you want to get well?”

“Everyone gets there before me; no one helps me.”

“Get up—now! Pick up your mat and walk.”

Instantly, the man was healed!

He rolled up his sleeping mat and began walking!

“

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”

-John 5.9-10

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SIGNS—

- ▶ To reveal the glory of Jesus
- ▶ To prompt belief in him as the Messiah, the Son of God

This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

-John 2.11

THREE QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTANDING THESE SIGNS—

(1) How is the glory of the One and Only revealed?

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

-John 1.14

(2) How is the transition from law to grace revealed?

*For the law was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

-John 1.17

(3) What blessings of grace are being revealed?

*From the fullness of his grace
we have all received one blessing after another.*

-John 1.16

(1) How is the glory of the One and Only revealed?

- ▶ *glory: qualities and abilities that God alone possesses in infinite measure—e.g. self-existent and eternal; all-powerful; all-knowing; unchangeable; holy and righteous*
- ▶ *the power to speak and instantly produce life—in this case, a man who was invalid for 38 years instantly is healed, his atrophied muscles are fully healthy, his motor skills and equilibrium are instantly functioning normally*

(2) How is the transition from law to grace revealed?

- ▶ *Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath, revealing that He was bringing a new era and a new order—one of mercy and blessing*
- ▶ *Jesus extended to this man the opportunity to be totally and instantly well—not through any effort of his own, but through the merit of Jesus on this man's behalf*

(3) What blessings of grace are being revealed?

- ▶ *Jesus extended grace and healing to this man in his hopeless and helpless circumstances—despite the fact that he exhibited little faith, no gratefulness, and had no desire or intention of following Jesus*



So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” 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.

-John 5.16-18

*No one has ever seen God,
but the one and only Son, who is himself God
and is in closest relationship with the Father,
has made Him known.*

-John 1.16-18

THE TWO SIDES OF JESUS

- ▶ Son of God - the One who reveals God

the glory of Christ, who is the image of God

-2 Corinthians 4.4

- ▶ Son of Man - the One who represents us

For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

-Hebrews 2.17



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. For as the Father has life in himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And He has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

-John 5.25-27

“ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

-Acts 17.30-31

SEEING CLEARLY

ISSUES

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