

**THE FIRST STUDIES ARE AMAZING STORIES OF JESUS AND HIS ENCOUNTERS WITH MANY PEOPLE. THIS PASSAGE IS WEIGHTY THEOLOGY.**

**WHAT ABOUT YOU**

This week's focus is on Jesus revealing the truth about Himself, that He is God. When did you first hear that Jesus is God? What was your reaction?

**LEARN FROM GOD'S WORDS**

**Pivot.** Now we're in a season of adversaries and persecution. And this is the place where Jesus chose to reveal the most about Himself. We will focus on John 5:16-30 but begin by reading the entire story of 5:1-30.

**The setting:**

Who is present? What is the situation? Who speaks?

**The people present are "the Jews" and Jesus. No other people are named.**

**The Jews are persecuting Jesus – looking to accuse and prosecute Him.**

**The only person speaking is Jesus who is addressing the accusations.**

What were "the Jews" [i.e., religious leaders] plotting to do? Why?

**They were plotting to accuse him of violations of the law with a death penalty. They were in control and threatened by His teaching and reputation as a miracle worker.**

Let's examine this as a court case. (Implied by the Greek word "persecuted.") "The Jews" are the prosecutors, Jesus is the defendant.

- According to the accusing Jews, what violations of the law had Jesus committed?
- **Broken the Sabbath law and blasphemed the name of God**
- Was their view of the laws accurate? What do we learn from these Old Testament references?

1. Exodus 31:15 **To work on the Sabbath was a violation punishable by death.**

Do you know what kind of work was forbidden? Why would this have been so important to God? **Though Jesus doesn't argue this, the intent of the law was about working doing what you would do for your sustenance, your income. God wanted the people to trust Him for their needs. Jesus had not violated this aspect of the Sabbath.**

2. Leviticus 24:16. **To blaspheme the name of God was punishable by death.**

If "to blaspheme" the means to speak irreverently of God, had Jesus done this? **Not at all.**

## **Jesus' Defense**

What was Jesus' response to their accusations about working on the Sabbath? (19-20)

**Instead of arguing the truth of the Sabbath law, Jesus explained that just as God was always working (sustaining all things), He too was always working.**

How did Jesus expand on the His relationship with the Father? What other roles did the Father delegate to Jesus? (21-22) **Jesus' relationship with the Father is intimate, eternally His Son, and He was fulfilling all that the Father asked of Him. His other roles include (1) giving life, (2) all judgment.**

What other indicator reveals that Jesus is God along with the Father? (23)

**Jesus will be honored / revered as the Father is honored.**

How is Jesus' life-giving power (v.21) applied to us? To those who have died? (24-26)

**Jesus uses His life-giving power to give us eternal life. He will one day raise the dead to life.**

What other God-role is given to Jesus by the Father? (27-29) How does He exercise this role?

(30) **Jesus will judge the living and those who have died.**

## **BIG PICTURE**

Who is Jesus claiming to be? **Fully God**

What are Jesus' God-roles in this passage?

- **To work in sync with the Father**
- **Giving life, raising the dead,**
- **Judgment**

How is Jesus connected with Father God?

**As God's son, He listens, watches, and obeys the Father. He lives in submission to Him. The Father entrusts the Son with many roles including those listed above.**

What did Jesus say (prophecy) about the future?

**That He would (1) raise the dead, (2) give eternal life to those who have done good, (3) be honored as the Father is honored.**

To whom did Jesus reveal all of this?

**To the people persecuting Him and plotting to kill Him.**

## **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

What do we learn about our relationship with the Father from Jesus' relationship?

**Jesus' relationship is our model. He obeyed, submitted, and trusted the Father. He did not try to do things on His own but waited, listened, and watched what the Father is doing. The Father's actions were His model.**

How was the truth about Jesus contrary (antithesis) to what "the Jews" were thinking?

**The Jews considered themselves above Jesus.**

**They prosecuted Him, found Him guilty, and sentenced Him to death.**

**But in righteous judgment, Jesus will find them guilty and sentence them to death.**

Jesus revealed deep truths about Himself. Why reveal all this to people desiring to kill Him?

**This is a real puzzle. We know that everything God does is motivated by love, righteousness, and redemption. So, it may have the following results: (1) Jesus was being forthright about His identity knowing that it would lead to the cross, (2) the truth about Himself would spread beyond His closest friends (disciples), (3) Jesus displayed His kindness even when being persecuted, and (4) nothing He did was hidden, but rather, public in every way. He fully revealed Himself to the experts in the law and all people.**

What an amazing Savior! I am praying that God will continue to give you wisdom and encouragement.

**Steve**