

Who Is This Man?

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC

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November 7, 2021

Text: John 5:1-18 (during worship),
5:19-47 (during Sermon)

Purpose: Jesus declares He has come to do the will of God, His Father. All that the Father wishes, Jesus will accomplish. Even though the world may reject Him, He will still accomplish all that the Father asks – even the death on the cross.

Over the past few weeks, we have been exploring John's account of Jesus' life. John has chosen seven signs to display to us that Jesus is who He says He is. Now there were MANY more miracles done while Jesus was on this earth, but John chose these seven signs to testify to who Jesus was.

Seven Signs							
2:1-11	4:46-54	5:1-18	6:1-14	6:16-21	9:1-41	11:1-44	20:1-28
Water to wine	Son healed	Lame man at pool	Feeding of 5,000	Walking on water	Blind man healed	Lazarus raised	Christ raised
Seven selected signs							Supreme sign

Interspersed in the text of the Book of John we find the theme, “*My Hour has not come.*” Jesus has come to His people. He clearly tells them who He was and why He has come, but they continue to reject Him.



Before we get into the discourse Jesus shares in this passage, let us get some background information.

Jesus was born at the right time, in the right place, and to the right family. Jesus has come upon the scene during a time when Rome is in charge of the city of Jerusalem. This city had been under various ruling parties over the centuries. But Rome provided a sense of security and freedom. The Jews were allowed to worship God in a manner which the Pharisees and Sadducees deemed best. The only thing Rome cared about was the tax revenue that came from the region. Anything that interfered in the peaceful flow of tax revenue – including religious activity – would be immediately stopped.

Rome was a religiously tolerant government. It allowed each region to adopt their own gods and to worship as they deemed best. This was a carry over from the days of Alexander the Great. A good citizen was involved in the religious life of the community. Some cities made the Emperor their approved “god” to worship. In the book of Acts we see that one city made their living fashioning silver statues as their god.



The Apostles made many people angry when they presented Jesus as the only Savior thereby changing their allegiance to worshipping Jesus instead of this silver god.

As for the city of Jerusalem, they worshipped YHWH. This was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses wrote about these three patriarchs in the first five books of the Bible, which are called the Pentateuch.

The religious leaders (Pharisees) believed that one day there would be a resurrection for the just. Their view of God included STRICT observance of the Law of God AND the additional interpretations of those laws as given by the Pharisees. The individuals called the Sadducees were a part of the judging class of citizens. They did not believe in the resurrection. They thought once you died, that was it. The way I remember them is that because they did not believe in the resurrection, they were “SAD YOU SEE.”

Both groups were united in wanting to keep and preserve their heritage and the status quo. Even though there was relative calm with Rome in charge of the city, they feared that with Jesus’ teachings and popularity rising, they were losing the respect of the common people. They were afraid they would join as one great big group that would threaten their independence. Rome did not tolerate unrest and when it did occur, they knew how to stop uprisings.

Jesus began His ministry quietly in Cana turning the water into wine, but over time, through His healings, His bold teachings against the legalism of the Pharisees and Sadducees, He became a popular person to go see.

The passage of scripture we read earlier was from the first part of John, chapter five. Jesus spoke to a man by the pool of Bethesda and healed him. He had been by the pool for thirty-eight years waiting for the water to be “stirred by an angel.” The tradition was that the first person in the pool could be healed. So many people came and waited for the water to stir. They had no other hope but in a few bubbles of water.



Can you imagine waiting for 38 years? Here he laid, helpless to get in the water by himself. He needed a friend but had none. Jesus came to him and told him to take up his bed and walk. The man took Jesus at His word, and did that and was restored. He could now walk. He did not care that it was the Sabbath. He did not care about the “rules” of the Sabbath about carrying his bed on the Sabbath. He could walk!

The Sadducees and Pharisees were more concerned about the letter of the law than the spirit of the law. When they confronted Jesus about this healing on the Sabbath, He simply replied, “*My Father in Heaven is always at work, and so should I be at work.*” (v. 17).

Up to this point, these leaders and teacher of Israel had been watching and measuring the words of Jesus. But when Jesus said that He was doing the work of His Father, they became ANGRY. It was okay to say that you were a child of God. It was okay to say that you were a follower of God’s teachings.

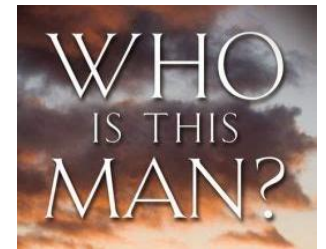


But Jesus claimed that He was higher than the scriptures and on equal footing with God. He was claiming Sonship! This was OUTRAGEOUS.

These rulers of Israel sought to KILL Jesus from this point forward. They did not know how to do it at this point, but they knew JESUS HAD TO GO. What surprises me as I read the four gospels, is that these men wanted to catch Jesus, but they COULD NOT. Over and again, they tried, but they were unsuccessful. Jesus said, that “*My Hour had not come.*” Until His hour had come, they would fail to lay a hand upon Him.

Who Is This Man?

This section from verse 19 to 47 is one of the richest declarations of who Jesus was. If we really understand this passage as the original words from Jesus, we can see the seeds of all the other writings found in the New Testament. Jesus leads us into the “Holy of Holies” with this discourse.



The question for this hour really is, “Who is this Man?” Who is Jesus Christ? Since Jesus left this earth forty days after His resurrection on Easter Morning, mankind has been struggling with this question.

The Muslims declare that Jesus is a prophet, but he cannot be the Son of God. They deny he is a part of the trinity.

The Jehovah’s Witnesses declare he is A Word, not THE Word. They do not accept that Jesus is a part of the Godhead.

The Church of Latter-Day Saints claim that Jesus was created by a physical relationship with Mary. They claim that there was a time when Jesus was not. They say, “As we are, God once was.” They reject the coeternal relationship that Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit have. They teach that we can become a God also. They distort historic Christianity.

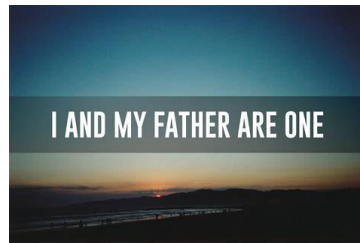
Let us turn to John 5:19-23 to see exactly what Jesus is saying about Himself.

READ John 5:19-23

I. We see that Jesus followed his Father’s example.

“My father worketh even until now and I work. The Son can do what He seeth the Father doing.”

(v. 17-19) The Father knows no Sabbath in seeking the salvation of the lost, neither does the Son. (v. 16) The eyes of the Son, as a servant, were continually towards the Father, as His Master. The Father was Christ’s example, even as Christ is to be our example.



II. He was loved by the Father.

“The Father loveth the Son, and showeth Him all things that Himself doeth.” (v. 20) One of the proofs of this love is that Jesus shows us the desires of God’s heart. The Father loves Jesus and has given into His hands all things. Jesus has received the same power and authority as God himself. You can see why the Pharisees and Sadducees were upset. Jesus claimed equality with God.

III. He quickeneth (or raises from the dead) whom the Father will.



“As the Father raiseth up the dead ... so Jesus will do the same.” (v. 21)

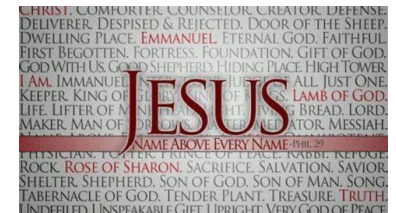
Up to this point, Jesus had not raised someone from the dead. But later we will see that what Jesus says is true when he raises several individuals from the dead, including His friend, Lazarus. Christ was saying that He is the one that will raise those that are dead back to life. Even today, those that call upon the name of Christ are raised from deadness of spirit unto aliveness in Christ.

IV. He Judges in the Father’s place

“The Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment unto the Son.” (v. 22) Why had God done this? Because He is the Son of Man, the Son of God. Jesus is not one of many Sons, He is the one and only Son of God. Because of that, He has been given authority to judge each of us. Jesus broke through the barrier of God and Man and became our mediator between us and God.

Philippians 2:9-10 says,

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”



All the affairs of the Father have been given unto the Son. It is Christ that is our redeemer, Saviour and Lord.

V. Jesus claims Equality with the Father.

“All may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father.” (v. 23) All the glory and honor you give to God should also be directed toward Jesus Christ. If you look at the opposite of this you will find, “All that do not honor the Son, do not honor the Father.” You see, those religions and faiths that reject Jesus are really rejecting God. God sent His Son into the world to reconcile us back to God. Not just as a moral example. Not as an elder brother, but as the one and only Son of God.



Jesus claimed that He and the Father are one.

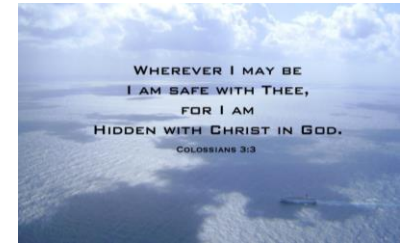
I John 2:23 says, *“Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.”*

The life, the character, and the work of Jesus Christ are so vitally connected with the life, character, and the work of the Father that in the estimation of both, they are one. This is an essential element of the Trinity. They are distinct persons yet they are one.

READ JOHN 5:24-30

VI. Jesus Possesses the Father’s prerogative of Life

“As the Father has life in Himself, so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself.” (v. 26) The Father, God is not dependent upon outside events to give life.



God has His own life in Himself. The Greek world believes that the gods derived their own life from the activity of man on earth. The Jewish concept was that God was above and outside Creation. Pantheism believes that God is IN everything and everything is god. If we were to kill a tree, it was as if we were killing god. God is not in creation, but is outside creation.

In Christ was the life of men. Jesus claimed He was the bread of Life. Later others would misunderstand this as a “Physical kind of bread.” Some accused him in John 6:52 of giving his own flesh to be eaten. Some have even taken the Lord’s supper literally as the wine as His blood and the bread as His flesh. Jesus is not speaking literally – He is speaking spiritually.

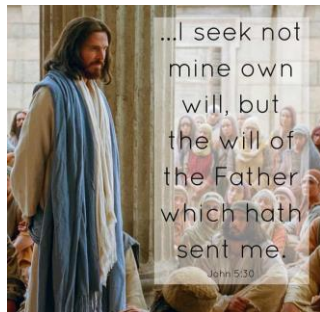
In Christ is life and life more abundantly. Maybe you don’t have abundant life. Could it be that you don’t have Christ abundantly in your life? Are you reading His word, praying and lifting your petitions and needs to him? If not, why not? There is no life in ourselves except what we find in Christ. John 6:57 says, *“As the living Father has sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of me.”*

Those that are in Christ need to learn to feed on Christ's word – in that we find life.

VII. Jesus Seeks to do the will of the Father

"I can of myself do nothing ... I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me." (v. 30)

Christ's will was so completely submitted to God's will, that whatever He did, it was God doing it through Him. At the well in Samaria, He told His disciples that *"His food was to do the will of the Father."*



Psalm 40:7-10 tells of Jesus.

"Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book, it is written of me.

I delight to do Your will, O my God, and your law is within my heart.

I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly;

Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, You Yourself know.

I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart;

I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation;

I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great assembly."

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus declared again, *"It is not my will, but Thy will that is to be done."* (Matthew 26:39) This steadfast love and devotion to God's will cost Him His life at Calvary.

READ JOHN 5:31-47

VIII. Jesus was sent by the Father

"The Father Himself has sent me." (v. 37) Christ knew from whom He had come and what God intended for Him to do. He was from the Father. What a comfort it must have been to Christ that night in the Garden of Gethsemane, that in his loneliness, in sorrow's lonely hour, that he was in the midst of God's will.

Galatians 4:4 affirms that *"in the fullness of time, Christ came into the world."*

IX. Jesus came in the Father's name.

"I am come in My Father's name." (v. 43) He did not come in Jesus' name. He came as the Father's representative among men, and because of this *"they did not receive Him."* Jesus had the nature of God and men who are opposed to God and the things of God will arise to thwart the purposes of God. It is surprising that Jesus warned us that when someone comes in their own name, many will flock to them and attach themselves to that person.

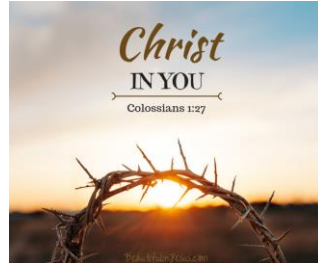
JESUS
REJECTED

This section of scripture in John 5:31-47 is a condemnation for those that have rejected Jesus. He is speaking directly to the Pharisees who love the scripture, love their heritage and ties with Moses and Abraham. Yet right now, Jesus is standing before them and they are rejecting Him. Even today, people are rejecting

**THE FATHER
WHO SENT ME
HAS HIMSELF TESTIFIED
ABOUT ME**

Jesus because He does not fit their profile of what a Messiah looks like.

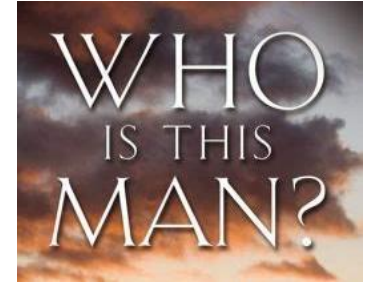
The heart of Christian doctrine is found in Christ's relationship with God the Father. Those that confess Jesus Christ as God's one and only Son and have come to Him seeking forgiveness of sin, will have everlasting life. Those that have received Christ, have the hope of the resurrection. Those that deny the relationship with Christ have declared themselves enemies of God. Christians may differ in many different ways in administering the ordinances or sacraments of the church, but our central core doctrine rests upon Christ's relationship with God.



Those that deny Jesus is God's Son, as understood in the context of the trinity, have created for themselves a system of faith that is contrary to the will of God – and actually denies God.

I don't know where you may be in your journey of faith. Maybe you have attended church for many years and never made a decision about who this man, Jesus, really is. But it is critical that you choose. We only have this life in which we can make this decision. Once our life has ended, our fate is sealed. There is no praying for the salvation of our souls after we die. I am only accountable to God for myself. Likewise, you are only accountable for yourself.

Who is this man? It is none other than the Son of God. God incarnate. God in the flesh. It is this gospel that I preach. It is this truth that I seek to proclaim every week. I have staked my eternity on the claim of Jesus Christ. How about you?



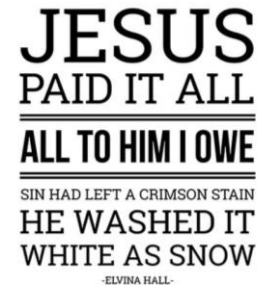
What are you staking your eternity upon? Is it your good works? Is it just a hope and a prayer that "maybe God will take me in 'cause He's such a good guy." All I can tell you is that the word in scripture is clear. Those that accept Christ are "IN CHRIST." Those that do not accept Christ "ARE CONDEMNED ALREADY."

Jesus Paid It All

There is a hymn we often sing at Spilman. It is titled, "Jesus Paid it All."

Mrs. Hall wrote the words to this hymn while sitting in the choir loft one Sunday morning at the Monument Street Methodist Church in Baltimore Maryland while she was supposedly listening to the pastor, the Rev. George Schrick.

You can imagine the conversation went something like this after the service:



Pastor Schrick, I must confess that I wasn't listening too closely to your message this morning. Because you see, once you started preaching about how we can really know God's love and forgiveness, I began thinking about all that Christ has already done to provide our salvation. Then these words came to me, and I just had to write them down on paper. And the only paper I could find was the flyleaf of this hymnal. So, I scribbled the words on that.

The pastor recalled that the church organist, John Grape, had just previously given him a copy of the new tune that he had composed, which he had titled, "All to Christ I owe." To the amazement of all, they soon discovered that John Grape's tune fit perfectly with Elvina Hall's words scribbled on the flyleaf of the hymnal. Since it first was published in 1874, this hymn has been widely used.

The last verse of this hymn says:

"And when, before the throne, I stand in Him complete;
Jesus died my soul to save," My lips shall still repeat.
Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow.

LET US PRAY