

John 5

Samaritans heard the word and believed.
They were willing to accept that they needed to be changed by Christ.
The Jews were only looking for a change in the world around them.
They thought they could prepare sufficiently.

In Galilee they received him because of what they had seen.

He was forced to do a miracle there, but did it in a way that faith had to be placed in his word.
Symbolized that they need something to happen to them beyond the physical.
Something that they cannot see. But just to hear and believe.

Verse 1

John 5:1 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

This is probably the feast of the seventh month. (Feast of tabernacles.)

Goes back to Jerusalem.
“Up”, because it is in the mountains.

Verse 2

John 5:2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

Bethesda: House of kindness (or mercy)

Archeologists only discovered it in the last 100 years.
There was a temple to Asclepius there.

Verses 3-4

John 5:3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

Omitted by Sinaiticus and Vaticanus.

But they still say this in verse 7:

“The sick man answered him: Sir, I have no man, *that when the water is stirred* he may put me into the pool; but while I am coming another goes down before me.”

God is undercutting Asclepius.
And he's about to up the ante.

Verse 5

John 5:5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.

He's been sick a long time.

Verse 6

John 5:6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

Might seem like a silly question.
But he is just sitting outside of the healing temple.

Verse 7

John 5:7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

Waiting for the angel to trouble the water.
(Verse in Sinaiticus and Vaticanus.)

Another person seeking something from water.

Verse 8

John 5:8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

How did he heal him?

Before Jesus was trying to avoid doing a miracle.

Verse 9

John 5:9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

He heard the word, and followed it.

But it was the sabbath day.

Verse 10

John 5:10 The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.

So he picks up his bed and walks into the city.
Jews probably watching the gates on the sabbath.

They wanted signs and wonders.
But he once again does a miracle that trips them up.

Exodus 20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

Didn't describe exactly what was meant by work.

Jeremiah 17:19 Thus said the LORD unto me; Go and stand in the gate of the children of the people, whereby the kings of Judah come in, and by the which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem;

20 And say unto them, Hear ye the word of the LORD, ye kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, that enter in by these gates:

21 Thus saith the LORD; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the **sabbath day**, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem;

22 Neither **carry** forth a burden out of your houses on the **sabbath day**, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the **sabbath day**, as I commanded your fathers.

23 But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction.

24 And it shall come to pass, if ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the LORD, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the **sabbath day**, but hallow the **sabbath day**, to do no work therein;

25 Then shall there enter into the gates of this city kings and princes sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their princes, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: and this city shall remain for ever.

26 And they shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the places about Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the mountains, and from the south, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and meat offerings, and incense, and bringing sacrifices of praise, unto the house of the LORD.

27 But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the **sabbath day**, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.

He was carrying his bed through the gate.

Jesus didn't have to tell him to carry his bed.
He is deliberately making a point.

Verse 11

John 5:11 He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.

“I’m just following the word of the man that healed me.”

Verse 12

John 5:12 Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?

They’re not asking because he was healed.

Verse 13

John 5:13 And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.

Verse 14

John 5:14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

He apparently credits God.

Jesus finds him and gives him a warning.

“Look, you’ve been healed, by physical health is not the end-all.”
Something worse can come upon you (you can end up in hell).

Verse 15

John 5:15 The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

We don’t know his motive.

Verse 16

John 5:16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.

Now Jesus has given them a miracle, and they want to kill him.

Because he has challenged their religion.

But what Jesus is demonstrating is that the constraints of the Law must be done away.

A new covenant was prophesied.

Verse 17

John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

Again makes himself the Son of God.

“I’m just doing the work God gave me to do.”
Meat to eat.

God is doing a work that transcends the law.
Jesus is just following his leading.
Transcend because it is a work of the Spirit (law is carnal).

Verse 18

John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

That just made them angrier.
Instead of thinking that if he was the Son, he could create a new covenant.
Weren’t they looking for the Christ, who would bring in a new age?
But they didn’t want Christ to change the way that they relate to God.

Verse 19

John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

If JW’s were to be believed, then Jesus should say, “Wait a minute, I think you’ve misunderstood.”

Jesus is making the case that he is indeed one with the Father.

First, there is nothing superfluous. He only does what he sees the Father doing.
He doesn’t act outside of the Father.

Verse 20

John 5:20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

And there is also nothing lacking. The Father shows him everything.
He can comprehend.

There is no work of God outside of the Son.

No saints or angels or any other force that can operate independent of Jesus Christ.

Before an angel healed them. But now the Son is here.

Verse 21

John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

They will see even greater works.

God can raise the dead.

One day he will.

Since all things are committed to the Son, the Son must be the one who will do that.

He must also have power to raise the dead.

And he's going to demonstrate it.

Verse 22

John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

And so on judgement day the Son decides who is resurrected.

Verse 23

John 5:23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

That is very clear. You cannot honor God without honoring the Son.

They cannot honor the Father through their religion.

They have to honor the Son, who stands in contrast to their religion.

Either they are going to honor God, or honor their religion above God.

Most people in the world choose religion over God.

They refuse to honor the Son, and one day he'll damn them for it.

They love darkness rather than light.

Rather than loving the Son, whom the Father has shown all things.

Verse 24

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Similar to what he told Nicodemus.

“He that believeth not is condemned already.”

They are in death.
But when they believe they pass from death unto life. They aren't condemned.

When they honor him, he will raise them from the dead.
The eternal life of the Father has been given to him.
He is the Word, which was with the Father, and in whom was Life, that was the Light of men.
And so those who honor him, he will raise up.

When they what?
When they hear his word, and believe on him that sent him.
(Not see a miracle and believe.)

Verse 25

John 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

In what was life? In the Word.
And so the dead will hear, and live.

Verse 26

John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

Again, the life was in the Word.
The Life of the Father was given to the Son.

John said that "he that hath the Son hath life."

Verse 27

John 5:27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

So Jesus has said it again, just so there would be no mistaking it.

He is the one who is going to execute judgement.
Here they are passing judgment on him.

He has power both to save and to destroy.

The Father gave him that authority because he is the Son of man.
Not despite it, but because of it.

The Life was in him from the foundation of the world.
But he had to come into the world to receive the authority to execute judgement also.
We talked about that in Hebrews, "obtained a more excellent name."

God had reserved the title of Son, the one who would execute judgement, as it said in Psalm 2, to a man, a son of David.

So a man would judge men.

One who could be touched with the feeling of our infirmities.

So that he could both give grace to the righteous, and execute judgement the wicked.

Verse 28

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

Like Nicodemus they seem to be having a hard time comprehending this.
But he tells them not to marvel.

Even those that are already in the graves.

Again, they will hear his voice.

Verse 29

John 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

And how are they going to be judged?
According to their works.

The living can pass from death to life by hearing and believing.
But the dead will be judged according to their works.

I know that may not fit into your theology.

Jesus has just explained that he can give life to whoever he wants to.
He is the one who will execute judgement.

So he can give life to those who did good, and damn those who did evil.

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, *according to their works*.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

There will be dead people who are with God in eternity because they died in good works.

You say, "How can he do that, how is that just?"

Verse 30

John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Jesus can issue a pardon to whoever he wants to.
Who are you to accuse him?

But Jesus is only going to issue pardons to people who honor the Father.
And if you don't honor the Son, if you haven't heard and believed his word, then you aren't honoring the Father.
The only people who can be saved by good works are those that didn't have opportunity to honor the Son.
Because they weren't living, they were dead.

Again, he is at one with the Father. He judges as he hears.

And so there is no doubt that he will judge justly.
He's not seeking his own will, but the Father's.
And we know that the Father is just.

Verse 31

John 5:31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.

Jesus acknowledges that you don't believe someone when they are bearing witness of themselves.

But they don't just have to take his word for it.

Verse 32

John 5:32 There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.

There is somebody else that has borne true witness of him.

Verse 33

John 5:33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me.

31 And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

They don't have to just take Jesus's word.

Verse 34

John 5:34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.

“But I'm not going to call him to the witness stand.”

“You did, you sent to him, and he bore record.”

“But that isn't the testimony that I'm going to put forward in my defense.”

“But I just mention it, so that you might be saved.”

Maybe you will receive his witness.

Because I know you're not going to receive the witness I call to the stand.

Verse 35

John 5:35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

They rejoiced, so when John pointed to the true light, they ought to receive it.

Verse 36

John 5:36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

The works themselves bear witness. The miracle that he just did.

That is the witness they asked for. They asked for a sign.

But they weren't willing to just accept the works that the Father had given him (cleansing the temple).

And now they are offended at another work that Jesus has done.

So that is a witness they won't accept.

They won't believe the Father gave him these works to do.

That he would want to do away with the old covenant.

But who are they to judge that?

Verse 37

John 5:37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

They've never spoken directly to the Father.
They've never even heard his voice, much less seen him.
And yet they think they know what works the Father would send the Son to do.

But Jesus says that they don't have to guess.
Because there were men who did hear his voice, and see his shape.
The Father hath borne witness of him.

Verse 38

John 5:38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

But they have rejected the word of God.
Ultimately, they've rejected the witness of the Father himself.

Because he told them what to look for, and then they rejected the one that he sent.

This is the ultimate witness. A word to be heard and believed.

Verse 39

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

It's in the scriptures.
They foretold what the One would be like who would come, what work God would send him to fulfill.

And they believe that in the scriptures they have eternal life.
In the word.
So they need to keep the word. They need to hear the word of the One whom the Father sent.

Verse 40

John 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

The scriptures did indeed promise life.
They foretold the one who would make it possible.
And they won't accept him.

Verse 41

John 5:41 I receive not honour from men.

“I’m not going to accept witness from any man.”

Verse 42

John 5:42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

Here is what it ultimately comes down to.

They do not have the love of God in them. Only the love of men.

And Jesus will only receive the witness of God, not the testimony of men.

As he told Nicodemus, they are in darkness, and want to stay there.

Verse 43

John 5:43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

They love men, so if a man comes in his own name, they’ll receive him.

But they will not accept someone coming in the Father’s name.

Jesus is arguing that it isn’t anything personal, it isn’t some misstep he’s made.

They would reject anybody who came in the name of the Father.

They just hate the Father.

Verse 44

John 5:44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

They don’t seek honor from God, but from one another.

And they want him to do the same.

Verse 45

John 5:45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.

Jesus didn’t come into the world to condemn it.

He’s not going to accuse them to the Father.

He doesn’t need to.

Moses is already doing that.

(Moses is one of the two witnesses, the two olive trees that stand before the God of the earth.)

“You foretold of him through me, and I put it down clear, I bore witness, and they won’t believe it.”

Verses 46-47

John 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.
47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

This is about one of the most offensive things you could possibly say.

But Jesus has here proved that they don’t actually believe or follow the law.

That’s not why they are against him.

It is because they don’t love God, and won’t believe his word. Even the law, they won’t believe. Not if it points them to God.

Remember what Jesus said to Nicodemus. “I have told you of earthly things, and ye believe not.”

So why don’t some people come to Christ?

Jesus said before that they loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil.

But the Samaritans did many evil deeds too.

Now we find that the Jews didn’t love God. They loved men.

They wouldn’t follow his word, only the word of men.