

# Jesus' Teaching on Jesus

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #15)

John 5:16-30

**A. The Jewish people had strict Sabbath regulations. Jesus crossed the line**

**B. As a result, the systematic persecution of Jesus began in earnest (5:16)**

1. Jesus states his defense: *"My Father is always at his work...I too am working"*
2. Not only had Jesus violated Sabbath, now Jesus says he is equal with God!
3. Jesus: *"You want to kill me because I say I am God. I really am!"*

LISTEN...

**A. 5:19 - "Very truly I tell you" means "This is important, listen carefully"**

1. Jesus opening claim is profound: he states he is *"the Son"* of God, then immediately adds he *"cannot do anything 'on his own'"*
2. As God's son, Jesus sets the pattern for our obedience
3. Jesus testifies to his majesty (*"The Son of God"*) and modesty (*"who cannot do anything on his own"*)
4. Jesus submits his "will" willing to his Father; the Father gives it back  
*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me"* (Matthew 28:18)
5. Jesus reminds us sustained obedience is impossible outside of love

**B. In his defense, Jesus makes five absolute claims about himself:**

1. In 5:19 - Jesus said he is precisely like God
2. In 5:20 - Jesus says God has shown him (only him) the work of God
3. In 5:21 - Jesus says God has given him the authority to grant [eternal] life
4. In 5:22 - Jesus says God has given him the authority to judge the world
5. In 5:23 - Jesus says the ultimate purpose of God is that all people everywhere give him the same honor they give the Father...

**C. Imagine the expression on the faces of the Jewish leaders!**

1. Every god-believing faith knows God *raises the dead and makes [us] alive*
2. Every god-believing faith knows, God is the ultimate judge; but the Father *"has given all judgment to the Son..."*
3. Every god-believing faith knows, God is the one who desires our honor

*"...that all people will honor him as much as they do the Father"* (5:23a)

a. Jesus says, *"If you want to love/honor God, you must love/honor His Son"*

b. This is a central and daring claim of the Christian faith

LISTEN...

**A. 5:24 - "Very truly I tell you." Again, "Listen carefully!"**

1. *"Hear this, the person (any listener or reader) who is listening (paying attention) to my Word and is believing (i.e., trusts) the One who sent me has (not "will have" or "might have" but has) deep lasting life, and is not headed for judgment (the fear of eternal punishment)*
2. To receive this promise, you need to listen carefully and trust completely

**B. John: The greatest honor we can give to the Father is to embrace the Son**

LISTEN...

**A. 5:25 - "Very truly I tell You! A time is coming and, in fact, has now come..."**

1. John is convinced people will come to Jesus as he speaks
2. Jesus returns to underscoring his claims of divinity and authority
  - a. Jesus says he has the first word (life) and last word (judgment) in all human life
  - b. Jesus made this claims earlier, but now the time frame has collapsed from before and after to "now" - the urgency level has been raised
  - c. The invitation has a beginning and an ending...come now!
3. Jesus entered time and space so he could bring us life and that we might be judged. One day we'll be standing before him...without excuse

**B. Knowing the claims and authority of Jesus, the primary role of those who follow him is to get the message out; that is the mission**

**THE SUMMARY (5:30)**

- A. Jesus speaks in the first person to make it clear that we know when he is talking about the *Son of God* and *Son of Man*, he's talking about himself**
- B. Jesus willingness to subordinate his will - human and divine - to his Father's should give us the confidence that in embracing Jesus we are embracing our Living God**