The Gospel of John  
**5.X—LIKE FATHER LIKE SON– JOHN 5:18-29**

**LET’S OPEN OUR BIBLES TO JOHN 5**

**INTRODUCTION**

John chapter 5 opens with the story of Jesus healing one impotent man out of a multitude in need at the pool of Bethesda outside the Temple grounds. Jesus healing of this man caused a commotion but not a commotion of joy and excitement for this miracle but a commotion of anger and persecution because Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath day. The man suffered with this impotency for some 38 years and was probably at or coming to this pool for a long time as well. The next day or the day before would have been just as good if we did not want attention. It is almost as if Jesus was looking for the attention of the Jews leaders. Not only did he want them to know that he was the Son of God but he wanted them to know the adage “Like Father Like Son.”

**TEXT**

**Though our text begins at John 5:18 and goes to versus 29. Let’s go back and catch the context by starting in John 5:15. And let me read this to you but please follow along no matter what translation you use. I will give you references to let you know where I am read from.**

**John 5:15-17 (ESV) 15**The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. **16**And this was why the Jews were **persecuting Jesus**, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. **17**But Jesus answered them, “**My Father is working until now, and I am working**

**John 5:18–29 (ESV)** **18**This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he **breaking the Sabbath**, but he was even calling God his own Father, **making himself equal with God**. **19**So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. **For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise**. **20**For **the Father loves the Son** and **shows him** all that he himself is doing. And **greater works** than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. **21**For as the Father **raises the dead** and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. **22**For the Father judges no one, but has **given all judgment to the Son**, **23**that all may **honor the Son**, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. **24**Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **hears** my word and **believes** him who sent me has **eternal life**. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. **25**“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when **the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God**, and those who hear will live. **26**For as the **Father** has life in himself, so he has granted the **Son** **also to have life** in himself. **27**And he has given him **authority to execute judgment**, because he is the **Son of Man**. **28**Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the **tombs will hear his voice 29and come out**, those who have **done good to the resurrection of life**, and those who have **done evil to the resurrection of judgment**.

1. **Jesus declare equality with the Father – 5:17-18**
2. **Yet Jesus submitted to the Father – 5:19**
3. **The Son does the work the Father does and the Father will show him greater works including raising from the dead– 5:20-21**
4. **The Father has put all Judgment into the hands of the Son – 5:22**
5. **The Son is worthy of honor like the Father – 5:23**
6. **The Son introduces the Two Judgments – 5:24-29**

**V15-17 John 5:15-17 (ESV) 15**The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. **16**And this was why the Jews were **persecuting Jesus**, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. **17**But Jesus answered them, “**My Father is working until now, and I am working**.” [[1]](#footnote-1)

The lame man was accused of breaking the law by carrying his bed on the Sabbath but Jesus was persecuted for healing on the Sabbath and his explanation made his persecutors want to not only persecute by kill him. Jesus went from the frying pan to the fire. Why?

**John 5:17 (NIV) 17** In his defense Jesus said to them, “**My Father** is always at his work to this very day, and I took am working.

**John 5:17 (NLT)** 17 But Jesus replied, “**My Father** is always working, and so am I.

Equality – submitted – greater works – judgement - honor

V18.1 **18**This was why the Jews were **seeking all the more to kill** him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

V18.2 **Jesus claimed equality with the Father** and his Jewish religious leaders knew it and Jesus confirmed it with words like:

**John 10:30 (ESV)** **30**I and the Father are one.”

**John 14:9 (ESV)** **9**Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father**. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

**John 14:10–11 (ESV) 10**Do you not believe that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me**? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **11**Believe me that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me**, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

**John 12:45 (ESV)** **45**And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.

**John 1:1–3 (ESV)** **1**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2**He was in the beginning with God. **3**All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

V19.1 Though having equality with the Father, **The Son submitted to the Father**

V19.2 **19**So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but **only what he sees the Father doing**. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

**John 6:38 (ESV)** **38**For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but **the will of him who sent me**.

**John 5:30 (ESV)** **30**“**I can do nothing on my own**. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

**John 4:34 (ESV)** **34**Jesus said to them, “**My food** is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.

**Philippians 2:4–7 (ESV)** **4**Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5**Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6**who, **though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men**.

V20.1 In verse 20, the Father loves the Son and promises the Son **POWER to do Greater Works:**

V20.2 **20**For the **Father loves *(Phileo)* the Son** and shows him all that he himself is doing. And **greater works than these will he show him**, so that you may marvel.

The Father “Phileo” the Son not “Agapao” the Son as in John 3:16

Phileo is a love between equals like close friendships

Greater works

Feeding the 5K men plus women and children with 5 loaves & 2 fish with 12 baskets left over – John 6:5-13

Rebuked the wind and spoke to the raging sea saying peace be still and nature obeyed him – Mark 4:38-40

The greater works of verse 20 includes following the Father in raising the dead and giving life as in verse 21

V21.1**21**For as the Father **raises the dead** and gives them life, so also the **Son gives life** to whom he will.

1. Jairus’ 12 yr old daughter (Matt 9:23-25), not buried
2. Widow of Nain’s son (Luke 7:11-15), being buried
3. Lazarus (John 11:43-44), buried for 4 days

John 11:25–26 (NKJV) 25Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life**. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

V22 **JUDGMENT** **22**For the Father judges no one, but has given **all judgment to the Son**,

**Paul confirms it: Acts 17:29–31 (ESV)** **29**Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. **30**The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, **31**because he has fixed a day on which **he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead**.”

**The Father gave the judgment of mankind into the hands of his son** who has demonstrated his sympathy and compassion

Sympathy

**Hebrews 4:15–16 (ESV)** **15**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16**Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**The Son has compassion**

**John 8:3–5 (ESV)** **3**The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst **4**they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. **5**Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”

V23 **THEREFORE HONOR IS DUE THE SON AS THE FATHER** **23**that all may **honor the Son**, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

**Philippians 2:9–11 (ESV)9**Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10**so that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth**, **11**and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**1 John 2:23 (ESV)** **23**No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

**John 15:23 (ESV)** **23**Whoever hates me hates my Father also.

Isaiah 42:8 (ESV) **8**I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

**THE VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD AND THE JUDGMENT OF THE SON OF MAN**

**V24-30** **ETERNAL LIFE** **24**Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **hears** my word and **believes** him who sent me has **eternal life**. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. **25**“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and **is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live**. **26**For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. **27**And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the **Son of Man**. **28**Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice **29**and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

V24.1 Whoever hears and believes (& Obeys)

V28.1 All in the tombs will hear Jesus’ voice (e.g. Lazarus)

V29.1 Two classes of people resurrection of life or judgment

Revelation 20:4–6 also mentions two resurrections: the first consists of the righteous dead before the Millennium, and the second of the unrighteous dead or the Great White Throne judgment at the end of the Millennium.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Those who belong to Christ will be raised in connection with His coming. The believers of the church age (from Pentecost to the Rapture) will be raised at the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:16), and the Old Testament saints, along with those saved during the Tribulation, at the end of the Tribulation (Rev. 20:4; cf. Dan. 12:2). Although Scripture does not explicitly mention them, believers who die during the Millennium will presumably receive their resurrection bodies immediately.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Acts 24:15–16 (ESV)** **15**having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a **resurrection of both the just and the unjust**. **16**So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.

**Revelation 20:4–5 (ESV)** **4**Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. **5**The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.

**Revelation 20:11 (ESV)** **11**Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.

**Revelation 20:12–14 (ESV)** **12**And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. **13**And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. **14**Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

**Revelation 20:15 (ESV)** **15**And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**Luke 12:46–48 (ESV)** **46**the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. **47**And that servant who knew his master’s will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. **48**But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

1. [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esv?ref=BibleESV.Jn5.15&off=0&ctx=may+happen+to+you.%E2%80%9D+~15%C2%A0The+man+went+away). (2016). (Jn 5:15–17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006). [*John 1–11*](https://ref.ly/logosres/mntcjn1?ref=Bible.Jn5.28a&off=1449&ctx=s+a+distinct+event.+~Revelation+20:4%E2%80%936+al) (p. 199). Chicago: Moody Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006). [*John 1–11*](https://ref.ly/logosres/mntcjn1?ref=Bible.Jn5.28a&off=2736&ctx=equences+of+events.%0a~Those+who+belong+to+) (p. 200). Chicago: Moody Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)