

**Authority**

People were always questioning Jesus' authority, but the reality is Jesus is God (remember back to John 1:1). No matter how strong we think we are, wise we think we are, or right we think we are, He is God and I am not. This really got to the religious leaders of Jesus' day because they wanted to be the ultimate authority. At the end of what we read yesterday, Jesus healed a lame man on the Sabbath. This will spark a lot of controversy that we will see today.

Before we look at God's Word, a few questions for you to reflect on:

- 1) You probably think it is silly for the religious leaders to be mad at Jesus for healing on the Sabbath, but where do you struggle with God's authority in your life (e.g., a command you don't want to follow, a situation you wonder where He is)?
  
- 2) What would submission to God's authority look like in that situation?

**John 5:10-15** <sup>10</sup> and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." <sup>11</sup> But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" <sup>12</sup> So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" <sup>13</sup> The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. <sup>14</sup> Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." <sup>15</sup> The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

- 3) Looking back to yesterday, why do you think Jesus chose to heal this man when there were many others at the pool?
  
- 4) Why did the healed man choose to listen to Jesus instead of the Jewish leaders and the Jewish Law?

**John 5:16-18** <sup>16</sup> So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. <sup>17</sup> In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” <sup>18</sup> For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

- 5) What does Jesus mean when He says “My Father is always at his work to this very day”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) What kind of “work” was Jesus doing on the Sabbath?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) Do you think Jesus was correct in disobeying the Jewish Law by healing on the Sabbath? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 8) Why would the Jewish leaders so quickly move to kill Jesus?

**John 5:19-27** <sup>19</sup> Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. <sup>21</sup> For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. <sup>25</sup> Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.”

- 9) From verses 19-20, describe the relationship Jesus has with God. What does Jesus' example mean to us as it relates to authority?
- 10) From verses 20-21, what do you think are the greater works Jesus is talking about?
- 11) How does verse 24 wrap up everything Jesus said in verses 19-23?
- 12) From verses 20-21 and 26-27, who has the right over life and death? What is Jesus saying about His power?
- 13) From verses 22-23 and verse 27, what kind of judgment is Jesus talking about here? Why is it important for Jesus to have the same power of judgment as God?
- John 5:28-30** <sup>28</sup> *“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. <sup>30</sup> By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.”*
- 14) Jesus is talking about the future time when those who believe will pass from death to life. There will be an actual physical resurrection of the body to heaven. (See Daniel 12:1-2 for more on the future resurrection of believers).
- 15) From verse 29, what does Jesus mean by those who have done “good” and “evil”? Remember to think about all that John has already written about how to have eternal life as you answer this question.

**John 5:31-35** <sup>31</sup> “If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. <sup>32</sup> There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true. <sup>33</sup> You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. <sup>34</sup> Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. <sup>35</sup> John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.”

- 16) Jesus brings up the idea of “another testimony” because in Jewish Law one person’s testimony would not be accepted as true. It needed at least a second witness. John uses the word “testimony” often throughout this book. Why is that? What is he trying to point out in Jesus?

**John 5:36-40** <sup>36</sup> “I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. <sup>37</sup> And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, <sup>38</sup> nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. <sup>39</sup> You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, <sup>40</sup> yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”

- 17) From verse 36, what are some of the miracles we have read about so far in the book of John? How do these testify to Jesus being God’s Son?

- 18) How do reading about Jesus’ miracles encourage your own faith in Him?

- 19) From verses 39-40, we now have the whole Bible, both Old and New Testament. Do you allow the truth in Scripture about Jesus to have an impact on how you live daily?

**John 5:41-47** <sup>41</sup> “I do not accept glory from human beings, <sup>42</sup> but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. <sup>43</sup> I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. <sup>44</sup> How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? <sup>45</sup> “But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. <sup>46</sup> If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. <sup>47</sup> But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

20) From verses 41-44, do you believe Julius Caesar was real? Hitler? Abraham Lincoln? George Washington? Pocahontas? Why do you believe they are real?

21) From verses 41-44, why if these people are accepted as real is Jesus not accepted as the Son of God?

22) If Jesus is the Son of God; what authority does that mean He has in your life?

Close in prayer confessing times where you have struggled with God’s authority and asking for help trusting Him and His good authority.