

Subject: Christ's Amazing Claims

Scripture: John 5:17-29

This text follows the statement in 5:16 about the Jews' hatred and their plan to kill Christ because He healed a man on the Sabbath day. This was the sermon after the sign. Jesus made several claims that not only shocked them, but made them even more eager to kill Him. His response (vs. 17, 19) continues through 5:47.

The claims Jesus made would have been foolish for any other person to make, but they were true and valid claims for Him to make. The Christian faith rests on the solid foundation of the person and work of Christ (who He is and what He did). What claims did He make?

CHRIST CLAIMED TO HAVE EQUALITY WITH GOD (vs. 17-18)

In verse 17, Jesus referred to "my Father" rather than "our Father" (like the Lord's Prayer). He spoke of God as His Father in a unique way. He is not a child of God like other believers. He is the only begotten Son of God. The people who heard Him understood exactly what He meant by that statement. He is equal with God.

John 1:1-2 ¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ² *The same was in the beginning with God.*

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Colossians 2:9 *For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*

CHRIST CLAIMED THE ABILITY TO DO WHAT THE FATHER DOES (vs. 19-20)

Christ claimed unity with the Father, unity of being (essence) and unity of action. The Son sees all that the Father does. He had inside information that no other man has (Deut. 29:29). The Son does all that the Father does. Like Father like Son. The Son will see even greater works (vs. 20). That is, He will see greater works than the three miracles already recorded in John (water turned to wine, healing of the nobleman's son, and healing of the impotent man). Who could make these claims except the Son of God?

CHRIST CLAIMED THE ABILITY TO GIVE SPIRITUAL LIFE (vs. 21, 24-26)

In verse 21, Jesus is talking about giving spiritual life to those who are spiritually dead. In verse 24, Jesus describes the kind of life He gives, everlasting life. This is one of the greatest statements in the Bible on eternal security of the believer, and it is all based on Christ's word. In verse 26, Jesus claims to have the same kind of life that is in the Father.

John 1:4 *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

Without Christ we have no spiritual life. We are spiritually dead and without hope.

Ephesians 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*

The words Christ spoke had life-giving power.

John 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

John 6:67-68 ⁶⁷ *Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?* ⁶⁸ *Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.*

CHRIST CLAIMED THE AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT (vs. 22-23, 27)

His claims should cause all people to honor Him as they honor God the Father. Refusing to honor the Son is the same as refusing to honor God the Father. **1 Samuel 2:30** ...for them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

CHRIST CLAIMED THE ABILITY TO RAISE THE DEAD (vs. 27-28)

Jesus is in control of future resurrection. In those days the Jews believed that God held three keys: the key to open the heavens and give rain, the key to open the womb and give children, and the key to open the grave and raise the dead.

Daniel 12:2 *And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Some verses make it seem like there is one general resurrection, but the Bible is clear that there is the resurrection of life and the resurrection of damnation. The doing of good or the doing of evil is not the reason that someone is saved or lost. It is the evidence of someone being saved or lost.

Revelation 20:6 *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

Revelation 20:11-14¹¹ *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.*

Jesus made some amazing claims that no other person could ever make. He made these claims and we must make our choice either to believe in Him or reject Him, to honor Him or dishonor Him.

Today is Mother's Day, and we are reminded in Scripture to honor our father and our mother. The only way to honor our earthly mother is to honor our Heavenly Father, and the only way to honor our Heavenly Father is to honor His Son. Let's turn back and look at the words of Jesus' mother, Mary. In these few words we have the best instruction any mother ever gave.

John 2:5 *Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.*