

JAMES RAFFERTY
2024
Q4
L1
JESUS CLAIMS
Sept 28-Oct 4

Lesson 1: Signs That Point *the* Way (Thursday)

September 28-October 4

Thursday *October 3*

Jill-faith persisted against all odds
Ryan-testing the fruits
Daniel-people need to see the face of Jesus
Shelley-

Jesus' Claims

The miracle by the Pool of Bethesda provided an excellent opportunity for John to emphasize who Jesus is. John takes about 14 verses to describe the miracle and about 33 verses (see below) to describe the One who performed the miracle.

Read John 5:16–18. Why was Jesus persecuted for His action on the Sabbath?

“AND THEREFORE DID THE JEWS PERSECUTE JESUS, AND SOUGHT TO SLAY HIM, BECAUSE HE HAD DONE THESE THINGS ON THE SABBATH DAY. BUT JESUS ANSWERED THEM, MY FATHER WORKETH HITHERTO, AND I WORK. 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.”

JOHN 5:16-18 KJV

John 5:18 can be disturbing because it seems to say that Jesus was breaking the Sabbath. However, a closer look at John 5:16–18 shows that Jesus argues that His “work” on the Sabbath is in line with His relationship to His Father. God does not stop sustaining the universe on the Sabbath. Consequently, Jesus’ Sabbath activity was part of His claim to divinity. The religious leaders persecuted Him on the basis of supposed Sabbath-breaking and a claim to equality to God.

BESIDES

“IF YE KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, YE SHALL ABIDE IN MY LOVE; EVEN AS I HAVE KEPT MY FATHER'S COMMANDMENTS, AND ABIDE IN HIS LOVE.”

JOHN 15:10 KJV

“WHICH OF YOU CONVICTS ME OF SIN? AND IF I TELL THE TRUTH, WHY DO YOU NOT BELIEVE ME?” JOHN 8:46 NKJV

THE PHARISEES TRIED TO CONVICT JESUS OF FAILING TO WASH HIS HANDS. YOU BETTER BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ALL OVER HIM IF HE BROKE THE 4TH COMMANDMENT. AGAIN JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES JUST BEFORE HIS CRUCIFIXION.

“HEREAFTER I WILL NOT TALK MUCH WITH YOU: FOR THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD COMETH, AND HATH NOTHING IN ME.” JOHN 14:30 KJV

AND PETER AFFIRMS CHRIST'S SINLESSNESS WHEN HE SAYS:

“FORASMUCH AS YE KNOW THAT YE WERE NOT REDEEMED WITH CORRUPTIBLE THINGS, AS SILVER AND GOLD, FROM YOUR VAIN CONVERSATION RECEIVED BY TRADITION FROM YOUR FATHERS; BUT WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, AS OF A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH AND WITHOUT SPOT:” 1 PETER 1:18-19 KJV

THE FAULTLESS CHARACTER OF CHRIST IS THE REASON THAT HE IS ABLE TO PRESENT US FAULTLESS BEFORE THE PRESENCE OF HIS GLORY:

“NOW UNTO HIM THAT IS ABLE TO KEEP YOU FROM FALLING, AND TO PRESENT YOU FAULTLESS BEFORE THE PRESENCE OF HIS GLORY WITH EXCEEDING JOY,” JUDE 1:24 KJV

-ACCORDING TO THE SANCTUARY TYPE ONLY A SPOTLESS LAMB COULD MAKE ATONEMENT FOR SIN AND PETER ALSO TESTIFIES TO CHRIST'S SPOTLESS CHARACTER:

“FOR IF, WHEN WE WERE ENEMIES, WE WERE RECONCILED TO GOD BY THE DEATH OF HIS SON, MUCH MORE, BEING RECONCILED, WE SHALL BE SAVED BY HIS LIFE.” ROMANS 5:10 KJV

-SAVED FROM WHAT? AS PAUL'S WRAPS UP THIS DISCOURSE IN ROMANS 8 HE TELLS US EXACTLY WHAT WE WILL BE SAVED FROM.

“THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THEM WHICH ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT.”

ROMANS 8:1 KJV

Read John 5:19–47. What was Jesus saying in order to help the leaders see Him for who He truly is, a claim so powerfully attested by the miracle He had just done?

Jesus defends His actions in three steps. First, He explains His intimate relationship with the Father (*John 5:19–30*). Jesus indicates that He and His Father act in harmony, to the point that Jesus has the power both to judge and to raise the dead (*John 5:25–30*).

Second, Jesus calls four “witnesses” in rapid succession to His defense—John the Baptist (*John 5:31–35*), the miracles Jesus does (*John 5:36*), the Father (*John 5:37, 38*), and the Scriptures (*John 5:39*). Each of these “witnesses” gives testimony in favor of Jesus.

Finally, in John 5:40–47, Jesus sets before His accusers *their own condemnation*, revealing the contrast between His ministry and their self-seeking. Their condemnation, He says, will come from Moses (*John 5:45–47*), the one in whom they have set their hopes.

How can we be careful not to fall into the trap of believing in God, even having correct doctrines, but not surrendering fully to Christ? Bring your answer to class on Sabbath.