



Turning Lost Students into Christ-Centered Laborers

WHO IS JESUS • Jesus Our Judge

What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?

John 5

The House of Mercy

John 5 records Jesus' first confrontation with the Jewish leaders. And it's packed with fantastic information about Jesus' relationship with His Father. The story starts in a place called The House of Bethesda, which was also called the House of Mercy.

The pool in the House of Bethesda in Jerusalem was a gathering place for invalids and crippled people. There were no hospitals in Jesus' day. This pool was a place people came seeking healing after they exhausted all their other options. Jesus went there on purpose, on a Saturday.

He selected an invalid who hadn't walked for 38 years, and healed him on the spot. And the words he used to heal him are quite important. He said, "Take up your bed and walk."

Let me ask you, what would you do if you couldn't walk for four decades then someone healed you with the words, "Take up your bed and walk?" You'd do it! You might dance, scream, call your friends, and schedule an interview eventually, but one thing is for sure from the beginning: You would take up your bed and walk.

Jesus knew how this guy would respond. He knew he would be walking with his bed for miles. And that's just what he wanted him to do.

Pharisaical Laws

In first-century Judea, Pharisees promoted a dizzying array of man-made laws which they added to the Old Testament. They also enforced these laws for the general population. Here are a few of them:

- No-one may do any type of work on the Sabbath
- No-one may walk long distances on the Sabbath
- No-one may carry a mat on the Sabbath

Jesus knew that a number of Pharisees would see the man he just healed walking with his mat and try to stop him. And then they would hear about the healing.

What's the Big Idea?

We will all face a judgment concerned with how we respond to Jesus, God's Son.

What's the Problem?

Apart from Jesus, we live lives of only temporal significance, unaware that we will one day stand before him, facing judgment.



How Dare You!

Believe it or not, by the time the Pharisees tracked this healing back to Jesus, their basic attitude was, "How dare you heal a man on the Sabbath!" No kidding. They were very steeped in their traditions. And Jesus said something even more inflammatory next.

Have You Talked to My Dad Lately?

Verses 15-18 record the topic of the conversation. Jesus told these Pharisees that God was his Father. And he went on to discuss his relationship with God the Father for the rest of this chapter.

Truly, Truly

Whenever you see Jesus beginning a sentence with the words, "Truly, truly..." lean in. He's about to say something really important. In verses 19-29, he does it three times. He's talking in this section about his relationship with his Father. He says:

(A) The Son only does things the Father does. (B) The Father loves the Son. (C) The Father shows the Son everything He's doing. (D) The Father and the Son both give life. (E) The Father has delegated judgment to the Son, (F) so that the Son's honor will increase. (G) The Father is dishonored whenever the Son is dishonored.

Can I Get a Witness?

In verses 30-47, Jesus listed several witnesses to his identity. He talked about John the Baptist, His own miracles, God the Father, and the Scriptures.

In this section, be sure to pay special attention to verses 39-40. These verses describe the Pharisees' key problem. They loved the Old Testament Scriptures, and their own traditions, but not Jesus. Jesus continued to needle them about this point by bringing up Moses in verses 46-47.

Missing Jesus is a big deal. Hebrews 10:28-29 says, "Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot....?"

Judgment

This study ends with a brief discussion of judgment. Scripture teaches that there are two primary judgments people will face in the afterlife:

One is for those who have not accepted Christ. It's called the judgment of unbelievers, and it's described in Revelation 20:11-15. A place called Hell is the destiny of those who fail to trust Christ in this life.

The other is for those who have accepted Christ. It's called the judgment of believers. You can read about it in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. This judgment functions more like an awards ceremony than a condemnation. Take a minute to look these passages up before your study.

What's Our Response?

Because Jesus is both a judge and a savior, we can trust him and live in light of eternity.

What Are the Questions?

John 5

LAUNCH

What do you think Heaven will be like?

EXPLORE

Read [John 5:1-8](#)

1. Where did this event take place? What do you think that scene was like?

Read [John 5:9-17](#)

2. Some other Jews saw the man walking with his mat. How did they respond? Why?

Read [John 5:18-23](#)

3. Jesus said, "Truly, truly I tell you..." and then he started speaking about his relationship with God his Father. Do you see any examples of the close relationship between Jesus and God his Father in this passage? Where?
4. Verse 23 says, "all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father." Is it really a big deal to dishonor Jesus? Why?
5. What are some ways that people dishonor Jesus?

Read [John 5:24-30](#)

6. What's the message Jesus has for us in his second "Truly, truly" (verse 24)? Who's the "him who sent me of vs. 30?"
7. What else in this passage stands out to you?

Read [John 5:31-47](#)

8. Some commentators call this passage a "courtroom" because Jesus cites several "witnesses" who testify on his behalf. Who are some of those witnesses?
9. Which of these "witnesses" are most compelling to you? Why do you believe in Jesus?
10. Jesus pointed out the Jews' main problem in verses 39-40. What was it?

Special Focus on Judgment:

Scripture teaches that there are two primary judgments people will face in the afterlife. One is for those who have not accepted Christ. It's called the judgment of unbelievers. We can read about it in Revelation 20:11-15. The other is the judgment of believers as recorded in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. Let's take a minute to look those passages up.

Read [Revelation 20:11-15](#)

11. Who is being judged? What role does Christ play? What is the end result of that judgment?

Read [1 Corinthians 3:10-15](#)

12. Who is being judged? What role does Christ play? What is the end result of that judgment?

APPLY

13. Do you fear or look forward to the judgment of God? Why? If you were to come face to face with God and he said, "why should I let you into heaven?" what would you say?"
14. Can you think of any reasons why you're glad that God judges evil?
15. We know that there will be no evil in Heaven, and there will be no-one there who doesn't love Jesus. What else do you suppose will be true about Heaven?
16. How might your life change if you live with more more awareness of the coming judgments of God,?
17. Check out Romans 8:17-18. What kind of people do you think will receive the biggest rewards in Heaven?

What Are the Answers?

1. There were no high-rise hospitals or nursing homes in Jesus' day. This pool served as a gathering place for invalids and crippled people who had exhausted all their other options.
2. When the Jews saw the man walking with his mat, they tried to stop him, because it was the Sabbath, and Jewish laws forbade carrying one's mat on the Sabbath.
3. See the "What Do I Need to Know About This Passage" section. These verses are packed with insights into Jesus' loving relationship with God the Father.
4. Hebrews 10:28-29 says, "Anyone who rejected the Law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot."
5. Discuss
6. God the Father sent Jesus. God is one in Essence, but three in Person.
7. Discuss
8. See the "What Do I Need to Know About This Passage" section.
9. Discuss
10. In all their study of the Scriptures, they missed the point of the Scriptures. They didn't know that they needed to be forgiven. They didn't know that they needed Jesus. And they respected their own teachings more than the Scriptures themselves. That's why Jesus condemned them for honoring "one another" instead of seeking the honor that comes from God (vs. 44).
11. Revelation 20:11-15 is commonly called the Great White Throne judgment. Many people believe that Christ is the One seated on the throne. Though many books are opened at this judgment, one particular book determines the destinies of those being judged. The Book of Life contains the names of all who have truly trusted Jesus.
12. In I Corinthians 3:10-15, the apostle Paul describes a judgment of believers at the upcoming Day of the Lord. Only people who have trusted Jesus attend this judgment, and everyone survives. Some also receive rewards.
13. We could never say enough. We are all sinful, and God necessarily punishes evil. But Jesus died for our sin, and we can escape judgment by placing our trust in him. "God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21)."
14. The fact that God judges evil is very good news. Evil is not eternal. Atrocities like rape, murder, genocide, and all lesser sins will one day be things of the past.

15-17. Discuss

Memorize

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my words and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

John 5:24