

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

Proof We
Shouldn't
Ignore

INTRODUCTION

John 5:19-47

“The question, ‘Is Jesus really God?’ is one that is regularly asked today. People find it hard to accept the claim that Jesus, a man born at a certain time and place, could also be the God of the whole universe incarnate. Our understanding of the sheer scale of the cosmos, and the magnitude and complexity of reality, means that it is difficult to conceptualize the One who made all of that and keeps it running as also a man who walked around Galilee a couple of thousand years ago.

However, as hard as people today find it to accept that Jesus is really, truly God, it was far harder for people then. Imagine what it must have been like for a first-century Jew, belonging to the most vigorously monotheistic people the world had ever seen, to process the claim that the man standing in front of them was equal to God the Father.¹ But this is exactly what we saw in last week’s study in John 5:18. This verse sets up what we’ll look at in this week’s study.

¹⁸This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill [Jesus], because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. (John 5:18)

In this week’s study we’ll see Jesus describe how he’s fully equal with God the Father and then “Jesus turns the tables on those who were judging him for making what they considered to be such an outrageous claim. Oh no, Jesus is saying. It is I who will judge you, and not the other way around. Such a “turning of the tables” is as necessary today as it was then. Many of us tend to approach God from the perspective of our own desires and needs. It is hard for us to make the leap to ask instead, “What does Jesus think of me?” rather than “What do I think of Jesus?” But that is the correct starting point: What is God’s assessment of what is best for me? What is God’s view of what is the best life for me to pursue? What is God’s view of what is sinful and what is beautiful? Instead of trying to fit Jesus into my already-formed preferences—squeezing him into the corners of my self-constructed lifestyle and relativistic approach to questions of faith and the divine—I am called to bow before him, center my life upon him, and joyfully submit to him.”²

¹Josh Moody. *John 1-12 For You (God's Word For You)* The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition, 93-95.

²Josh Moody. *John 1-12 For You (God's Word For You)* The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition, 99.

OPEN IT

1. Describe one thing, either in the past or present, that has caused you to doubt Jesus. How has God helped you move past this doubt?

READ IT

John 5:19-47

EXPLORE IT

2. Who does John say has eternal life?
3. Who does John say will live?
4. When the dead hear God's voice, what happens to those who have done good and those who have done evil?
5. Whose will does the Son seek to do?
6. Who is the person that Jesus says accuses the people?

APPLY IT

“In the first part of chapter 5, Jesus Christ reveals himself as Lord. His words and works show his power and authority. Because of his authority, there’s a claim on our lives to obey him. In verses 19-29 we see that Jesus’ authority stems from his deity, and his authority demands obedience.

The religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus because he was making himself equal to God. Their response was wrong, but their understanding of Jesus’ statement was not. Jesus was revealing himself as God. This is the basis for his authority. Jesus stresses his deity by describing his unity with the father in these verses. Once we see his deity, his authority over us becomes obvious.”³

7. What does it mean that Jesus does not do anything on his own (John 5:19)?

8. How should this impact how closely we listen to Jesus today?

9. In John 5:21, Jesus talks about how God the Father raises people from the dead and how Jesus himself will do the same. This refers to physical raising, but also spiritual renewal. Describe one area of your life that has been “renewed” because of Christ’s work in you.

³ Matt Carter, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in John* (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2017), 121.

10. Describe one specific way Jesus' authority changes the way you live.

11. As you read through the statements that Jesus makes about himself and his connection with God the Father, which one encourages you the most and why?

In verses 30-47, Jesus offers three proofs for His deity. The first proof is John the Baptist's witness to Christ. The second proof is the works that Jesus does. The third proof comes from the Old Testament Scriptures. Each of these are given by Jesus as the reasons people should trust that He is God.

12. In verse 39, Jesus says the Old Testament Scriptures testify about Him. How should this impact the way we read the Old Testament and understand Jewish customs and traditions as outlined in the Old Testament?

13. In verse 42, Jesus says He can tell that the people don't have the love of God in them. What are some ways we can know we have the love of God in us?
14. Many people were wowed by what Jesus said and did, but they did not believe in Him. What is the difference in admiring Jesus and believing in Jesus?
15. Jesus calls out the Jews for placing their hope in Moses (the Law) rather than in the one who Moses spoke of (the Messiah). What are things that people commonly place their hope in today other than Christ?
16. How would you lovingly tell someone that Jesus is the only way to be saved and there is no other path to God?