

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ The Declaration of Messiahship

Last time: the controversy of the healing at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath

We are now in the 2nd year of Jesus' Christ's ministry, which is marked with continual controversy and contention with the religious establishment

This time: the controversy of Jesus' Identity – Jesus Christ's Declaration of Messiahship

We will again be in the Gospel of John, Chapter 5

v15-16 told the Jews it was Jesus...persecute Jesus...to slay Him:

After

- Jesus initiated the healing of the man helplessly afflicted for 38 years
 - giving him a simple but impossible command
 - giving him the strength to obey the command
- the man walked joyfully thru the feast-sized crowd carrying his bed
- the Pharisees
 - interrogated this “criminal” for breaking the Law
 - asked him to testify against the Man who healed him
- Jesus
 - revealed Himself to the man
 - revealed the breadth and depth of His work of healing
 - warned the man to sin no more lest a worse affliction come upon him

the healed man

- tells the Jews/Pharisees who healed him
- testifies “against” Jesus

Did the man, the recipient of Divine grace and healing, throw Jesus under the bus?

Did the healed man betray Jesus like Judas will?

Did Jesus instruct him to tell no man like He has done to others He has previously healed and others He will subsequently heal?

Whose will is being done?

- Devil's?
- the man's?
- God's

In accordance with the will of His Father, Jesus Christ healed the man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath for a precise purpose –

- to challenge the religious establishment
- to demonstrate and reveal that He is the Lord of the Sabbath
- to teach the Higher Law of Love, the fulfillment of the Law of Moses

The healed man testifying of Jesus to the Jews is part of God's plan

How did the religious leadership react to the testimony?

Rejoice with the man who has been so wonderfully and mercifully healed?

The Hunt is on: Kill Jesus of Nazareth

The religious leaders deem Jesus worthy of death because

- He has repeatedly broken the Sabbath...by healing people as only God could
- He has claimed to have the power to forgive sins...and only God can forgive sins
- He is a threat to their influence over the people...teaching with power and authority far superior to the scribes

The hypocrites want to kill the One fulfilling the Law...for breaking the Law
(in their blinded and twisted view)

btw...will they ever accomplish their goal of slaying Jesus?

No, because Jesus came to solve the problem of death

John 10:17-18

Acts 2:22-24

Col 2:14-15

1 Cor 2:7-8

No man can take it from Me...I have power not possible that He should be held by death spoiled, triumphing over had they known, would not have crucified

v17-18 sought the more to kill...equal with God:

After hearing the testimony of the man healed at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath, the Pharisees march to confront Jesus...

Who is not "in hiding" but is working out in the open

When charged with breaking the Law, Jesus responds with a simple statement:
"My Father works today/presently and I work."

- I am doing the work of My Father (relationship)
- The Father and I are 'on the same page', of the same nature

We need to be very clear about something Jesus Christ was very clear about...
did not struggle with: His Identity and Mission

Phil 2:6

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God (KJV, NKJV)

Who, being in the form of/being in nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped (NIV, NASB, ESV, MEV)

Did Jesus know He was God or did He think being equal with God was beyond His grasp?

Jesus Christ knew Who He is and what His mission was

Jesus did NOT question His Deity...we should not

It matters what Bible you read and study

Back to the confrontation in our text...

Did the Pharisees hear “Joseph the carpenter” when Jesus said, “My Father”?

No!

- Joseph the carpenter, the husband of His mother Mary is dead
- In context of what Jesus has been saying and doing, they rightly hear “God” when Jesus said “My Father”

Did the Pharisees understand Jesus?

Yes, they rightly understand what Jesus just said!

He was not playing mind games with them

He spoke clearly and directly as to Who He is...

and they understood

Therefore, the religious establishment about lose their collective minds – and add another charge to their list against Jesus: blasphemy

Intertwined: “Sabbath”, “work”, and the nature of the God of Israel

Gen 1:1 Elohim

Gen 1:26-27 Elohim, “us”

Gen 2:1-3 Elohim, finished His work, rest/shabath from ALL His work, sanctified/set apart the Sabbath

The Sabbath: a sanctified commemoration of the Triune God resting from all His work

Heb 4:1-11 we enter into God’s rest by believing in God’s finished work

we labor to believe...that the invisible God said what He meant and meant what He said

we labor to let God’s work into and govern our lives

Phil 2:12-13

To believe/trust the Word of God is entering into God's rest,
thereby keeping the Sabbath by resting in His finished work
To not believe/trust the Word of God is not entering into God's rest,
thereby breaking the Sabbath by striving in our works

To keep the Sabbath is to enter into a right relationship with the Lord of
the Sabbath

Who is breaking the Sabbath – Jesus or the Pharisees?

The confrontation regarding the Sabbath:

- The faith of Jesus Christ
- vs
- The unbelief of the Pharisees

The testimony of Jesus Christ's enemies declare that Jesus claimed to be God.
Did Jesus deny their conclusion and hurry to correct them about Him making
Himself equal with God?

No...because He is equal with God

John 1:1-4, 14

John 10:30

One is indivisible

And the Hebrew Scriptures so testify to them: the Messiah is God

Is 7:14

Is 9:6

Is 43:1-3a, 11

Is 45:15, 21-23

Is 49:26

Is 60:16

Hosea 13:4

Micah 5:2

KJV and NKJV, "everlasting" = vanishing point, eternity
Is 57:15

NASB says, "ruler in Israel, His goings forth are from long ago, from the
days of eternity." (OK)

NIV says, "ruler over Israel whose origins are from old, from ancient
times."

ESV says, "ruler over Israel whose coming forth is from old, from
ancient days."

MEV says, "ruler over Israel whose origins are from of old, from ancient
days."

NLT says, "a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past."

Is Jesus eternal Creator God (TR) or creature with origins (Alexandria)?

Therefore, those who reject the Gospel and say that Jesus Christ never claimed to be God do so with

- ignorance...have not read the Word of God
- unbelief...do not believe the Word of God

Back to the ignorant and unbelieving “lawyers”, who did not investigate

- the words of Jesus
- the works of Jesus
- the history of Jesus (miraculous birth, birthplace, childhood, etc)
- the Scriptures

but rather interpreted all those things with prejudice of their own beliefs

At this point, Jesus makes 10 declarations that He is the Messiah and God (equal with God, in Whom we rest) to shed some light on the issue

v19 The Son can do nothing...see the Father do...do the Son likewise:
1st Declaration of His Messiahship

God the Son can do nothing of His own will...
can do nothing that would contradict the will of the Father,
cannot do anything different than the Father
Otherwise, the nature of God would be violated
Deut 6:4...and One is indivisible

What has the Son seen the Father do?
ALL His work...Gen 2:3
Therefore, the Son does what He sees the Father do
This is the faith of Jesus Christ

Jesus had a will...He submitted His will to the will of the Father (Matt 26:36-42)
vs will of Satan or Self
This is the faith of Jesus Christ

Heb 11:1 The substance/setting under/support
of things hoped for/expected/trusted in

Heb 11:6 It is impossible to please God apart from faith...
Jesus is the Son in Whom the Father is well-pleased

Gal 2:16, 20 (KJV vs NKJV, NASB, NIV, ESV, MEV, HCSB, NLT)
My faith in Jesus Christ is not the substance/setting under/support of
things hoped for/expected/trusted in of God's Plan of
Redemption for fallen man – the faith of Jesus Christ is!
“in” vs “of”...how subtle and how impactful!

Only the Messiah/God could say v19

v20 Father loves Son...shows Him all things that Himself does:
2nd Declaration of His Messiahship

The Father and the Son have a loving relationship
the Father “loves” the Son

phileo – kinship, of same family

vs

agape – self-less sacrificial for the benefit of another at the expense
of Self...unnecessary within the fellowship of the Godhead

Only the Messiah/God the Son could

- phileo God the Father
- be shown all the works of the Father (Gen 2:3)

Jesus adds, “My Father is showing Me even greater works than these
(healing, forgiving sin) that ye may wonder (at the wonderful works of
Him Whose name is Wonderful).”

v21 raises up the dead:
3rd Declaration of Messiahship

The Father and the Son raise the dead (greater works)...are the source of Life

The Father did

- The son of the widow of Zarephath...via Elijah (1 K 17:17-24)
- The son of the Shunammite woman...via Elisha (2 K 4:17-37)
- The dead man buried in the bones of Elisha...(2 K 13:20-21)
- Abraham...by faith in the promised son

The Son will

- The son of the widow of Nain
- Jairus' daughter
- Lazarus

Ultimate work of God: Resurrection of the Son of God by
Father (Gal 1:1, Rom 6:4) and
Son (John 10:17-18) and
Holy Spirit (Rom 8:11)

v22 judges no man...committed all judgment:
4th Declaration of Messiahship

The Son is the Father's appointed Judge of all mankind
Acts 17:31 appointed a day...judge the world in righteousness

v23 honor:
5th Declaration of Messiahship

The Son has the Father's honor
To dishonor the Son (not believe, John 6:28-29) is to dishonor the Father

- JWs
- Mormons
- Muslims
- Atheists
- Agnostics
- Humanists

All deny the deity of Jesus Christ

1 John 2:22-23 to deny the Son is the Christ is to not have the
Father

2 John 9 to abide not in the doctrine of Christ is to not have
God
to abide in the doctrine of the Christ is to have both
Father and Son

v24 hear...believe...everlasting life:
6th Declaration of Messiahship

The Son speaks the Life-giving, life-changing words of the Father
Deut 18:18-19
John 3:16-17
Rom 8:1

1 John 5:10-12 to receive the testimony of God is to have eternal
life that is in the Son, to have the Son is to have life

v25 the dead shall hear the voice:
7th Declaration of Messiahship

The Son (Voice of God) has the Father's power of eternal resurrection
Eph 2:1-10

1st time Jesus refers to Himself as "Son of God"
Dan 3:25 (only time in OT)
Prov 30:4
Ps 2

v26 life in Himself:
8th Declaration of Messiahship

The Life of the Father is in the Son...the Son is God
John 10:17-19

v27 authority to execute judgment...Son of Man:
9th Declaration of Messiahship

The Son of God is the Son of Man
The Messiah is 100% God and 100% Man (Kinsman-Redeemer)
The Son of God, the Messiah, will

- bear the Father's judgment on Adam's race
- bring forth judgment of each man's works/choice
(to believe/trust or to not believe/trust)

So it must be if God is to redeem/rescue Adam's race from death, hell,
condemnation, damnation

v28-30 those in the graves...good...evil...own self do nothing:

“Marvel not at this.”

Imagine the look on the faces of the Pharisees!

10th Declaration of Messiahship

The Father and the Son are in one accord (unanimous), like-minded, in unity,
of the same nature

The Son will do nothing different than the Father

The Son is equal to the Father

Upon the judgment of Jesus Christ/Messiah/God rests/lies eternal resurrection for
every person

good = believe Him Who alone is Good

evil = not believe

The Identity of Jesus of Nazareth is the central message in God’s Truth

He is God

Only the Messiah can say the things Jesus said in v19-30

Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah/Savior or He is not

God is true or He is not

God the Father has given us His Word (Jesus the Son) –

- Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God?
- Do you want the will of the Father in your life?

Jesus Christ is God

By believing in the Son, enter into the rest, a loving relationship, of the Father

We don’t do good works so He will like us, He likes us so let’s do His good works!

John 5:39

Rom 10:4

Enter into God’s rest...if you never have before

Rest in God...in every circumstance