

# JESUS CLAIMS TO BE THE SON OF GOD – STUDY NOTES

**John 5:16-30**

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

---

New Living Translation

## Jesus Claims to Be the Son of God

**16** So the Jewish leaders began harassing[a] Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules.**17** But Jesus replied, “My Father is always working, and so am I.” **18** So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God.

**19** So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. **20** For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. In fact, the Father will show him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished. **21** For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants. **22** In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge,**23** so that

everyone will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him.

**24** “I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

**25** “And I assure you that the time is coming, indeed it’s here now, when the dead will hear my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live.**26** The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son. **27** And he has given him authority to judge everyone because he is the Son of Man. **[b]** **28** Don’t be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God’s Son, **29** and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment. **30** I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.

The healing was totally overlooked, all that mattered to people, was that the Sabbath law had been broken.

The anger that was invoked by Jews against Jesus demonstrates just how much the Jews had lost their focus. Jews understood three steps needing to take place so that they could be restored:

**1. Returning to Jerusalem.** Jews had been slowly returning to Jerusalem over time and had an established presence even though the Romans ruled over the land.

**2. Remaining spiritually focussed.** This is a reason Jews had so many rules and regulations. We are often very hard on the Jews and accuse them of being legalists, but their rules were partly enforced because when you read the Old Testament you will see how wayward they had become, they did not want to return to that state so they developed a strict system to hold them accountable. The Pharisees, Essenes and the Sadducees established strict laws in the society.

**3. Christ's return.** This is why Nicodemus came to Christ and asked him 'if He was the Messiah'?

What distracts us from keeping our eyes on Christ?

There might be very noble issues that we focus on that we think are primary, but they are not. Can you reflect on the issues in our personal lives that tend to consume us to the point that we lose perspective, especially as Christians?

Not only did the Jews miss the fact that a man was healed in one minute, something 38 years of wishing and moving water could not produce. But even more important, they missed the fact that the Messiah they were waiting for was right in front of them!

---

Jesus wanted to bring the people's focus back to the essentials of their faith and the teaching on the Sabbath was a golden opportunity for a lesson.

Do you recall what Jesus said about the Sabbath in [Mark 2:27-28](#)

[And Jesus said to them, "the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath".](#)

It is as if Jesus is saying, ok, so you want to talk about the Sabbath, how about this...

["My Father has been working until now, and I have been working"](#). You wanted to open this door so now, let's walk through it.

Keep in mind that...

**1. God is always working.** God rested from creating, but He does not rest from 'preserving' and 'governing'.

**2. The accusations against Jesus was based on oral traditions** and practices, not on scriptural instructions. Jesus was sinless (Heb. 4:15).

**3. Jesus performed 7 healings on a Sabbath.**

**4. The Jewish leaders were looking to find fault with Jesus** according to [Luke](#)

[6:7 "...so that they might find an accusation against Him"](#).

Jesus is willing to engage in the deeper issues, the source of the problems in our lives, but are we willing to go there?

Why is it difficult for the followers of Christ to identify and speak to the 'root issues' in our lives? This can relate to our relationship with Jesus, but it is especially manifested in our relationship with others.

Remember that the Gospel writer, John the Apostle of Jesus was writing to the Jews and this was a far-reaching teaching point that highlighted the hypocrisy of what the Jewish leaders were inculcating in culture.

---

The rightsizing of our relationship with Jesus begins with two essentials, understanding the relationship between God and Jesus and secondly, between Jesus and humanity.

19-20

### 1. JESUS ESTABLISHES WHO HE IS IN RELATION TO GOD THE FATHER.

Jesus' rebuttal probably blew the Jewish leaders' minds! It neutralizes the Jewish teachers, but Jesus is going to the root of the matter as He initiates His 3+ years of ministry. What Jesus says in the following verses is fundamental to our faith as Christians. Jesus states the following:

#### **1. The Son can do nothing by Himself.**

- So if what Jesus was saying is that it was God who told the lame man to pick up his mat and walk. If that was the case, then no one could argue that it was the right thing to do.
- Jesus cannot act independently of the Father, they are joined in every way. We will talk more about this later in the sermon.

## **2. What Jesus does is a perfect reflection of the Father.**

- Commentators refer to Jesus demonstrating this lesson as an apprentice to His father when learning Joseph's trade.

## **3. The Father loves the Son.**

- The tense here infers an 'ongoing' habitual love.
- Demonstrates the 'incarnation', Jesus is fully man and fully God.

## **4. This is just the beginning, greater marvels are still to come.**

- What are the 'greater signs' that Jesus would do?
- Raised himself from the dead.
- Saved humanity.
- Lived a sinless life on earth.

How does the relationship that God has with His Son Jesus influence our relationship with God, our neighbors and all of creation?

## 2. JESUS ESTABLISHES WHO HE IS IN RELATION TO HUMANITY.

1. Jesus wants us to know Him and knowing Him means that we understand that He has 'ultimate power' in all things. Having ultimate power would be very difficult to comprehend but displays it to man by the raising of the dead. There is nothing Jesus cannot overcome.
2. Jesus is the judge, He will judge every human being. Judgement consists of several things:

### 1. **There has to be a law** – God's law.

- Rom. 4:13 Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith.
- Romans 2:14 Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it.
- Matthew 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

### 2. **There has to be a judge** – Jesus.

### 3. There has to be a consequence – Heaven or hell.

Some people struggle with Jesus as judge because they struggle with hell. They would ask, how can a loving God condemn people to hell? Hell is an undeniable part of scripture and the reality of life here on this earth and in eternity. Scripture speaks about hell in **Matthew 25:41,46** in the parable of the ‘sheep’ and the ‘goats’ and Jesus says, **“Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels”.**

According to scripture, why does Jesus make a good judge?

Why is it easier for some people to focus on the ethics of hell, as opposed to, heaven?

Why is hell a difficult concept in our world today?

#### FYI

The Jewish leaders wanted to focus on Jesus as the “law breaker” not on Jesus as the “healer”. **We all have the ability to look at Jesus and accept him as the Son of God, or not, those are the only options.** Muslims look to Jesus as a prophet, Jehovah’s Witnesses do not believe Jesus to be part of the Trinity, Hindus view Jesus as a Holy Man, a Hindu Saint.

---

24-27

1. What Jesus is stating about His relationship with God establishes the unique nature of the Trinity. Here are some of the characteristics:

- **One God yet three distinct persons** that are each distinctly divine sharing the same divine nature but they are not three separate gods (tritheism) nor a single person with different roles (modalism).
- **The three persons of the Trinity are in eternal relationship of love and communion** which is the foundation of God's creation.
- **The Trinity is a mystery.**
  - **Central to Christianity** (the Son's incarnation and the Spirits indwelling) are integral to show God's interaction with humanity.
  - **Supportive scriptures for the Trinity are** [Matthew 28:19](#), [John 1:1-2, 2 Corinthians 13:14](#).
  - **Metaphors are numerous to demonstrate the Trinity, but my favorite is the egg consisting of the shell, the white and the yoke.**

### **3. Incidentally, this is what separates Christians from Jehovah's Witnesses (JW).**

1. JW's believe that Jesus is the Son of God, but they do not believe that He is divine. Jesus was God's 'first creation according to JW's.
2. If Jesus is not divine, then He is not part of the Trinity. JW's take the very words of [John's Gospel, 1:1](#) and translate it as "The word was a god" instead of the "[Word was God](#)" referring to Jesus.
3. If Jesus is not part of the Trinity, He is then 'lesser' than God according to JW's. JW's do not worship Jesus for this reason, He is lesser than God. Jesus

was Michael the Arch Angel prior to his earthly life and then returned to that role after his earthly role.

The Trinity is fundamental to our faith as Christians, it separates Christians from cults.

What do you think about when you consider the Trinity?

Is it clear to you how foundational the Trinity is to our faith as Christians?

What questions do you have regarding the Trinity? Feel free to direct them to the pastors and we will address them for you.

The Jewish leaders had to do something with Jesus and the same applies to us today.

Jesus makes it clear how we ought to respond to Him:

1. We need to hear His voice.
2. We need to believe in Him.
3. The result is that we will:
  - Have eternal life.
  - Pass from death to life.

We will all be raised from the dead, those who have done evil and those who have done good. Jesus is master over good and evil (ultimate power). Salvation is based on hearing the Word of God and obeying it. It is not based on good works or bad works. You will want to do 'good works' because you will bear fruit that resembles Jesus.

What do think about people rising from their graves?

Do you think everyone has truly 'heard' and 'listened' to the Gospel of Jesus?

How is the difference between 'Hearing' and 'listen' to the Word manifested in Church and the rest of the Christian world.?