

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

By Henry Janse van Rensburg
Christian Centre Abbotsford

26 March 2023

Key verses: John 5:19-37

INTRODUCTION

Jesus just healed a man who was ill for more than 30 years. This man:

1. gave up on being healed: Delayed for so many years
2. was in a state of sin: Defeated
3. became familiar with his condition: Depressed
4. had a complaining spirit: Defensive
5. Looking at the pool rather than the healing power of God: Distracted

Jesus did the miracle:

1. Sovereignly – chose a man and displayed His mercy
2. Acted suddenly, powerfully and surprisingly
3. Acted graciously
4. Acted directly
5. Acted purposefully

All of this was done on a Sabbath. The response of Jewish leaders (who were blinded from the miracle but trapped in legalism) – persecuted Jesus. All the attention was on Him, not because He healed and changed the life of a person, but he overstepped a rule and vs16 says they even tried to kill Him. The Pharisees were so concerned about the rule that was broken that they **didn't** recognise the miracle that happened.

How many times was Jesus or are we Christians persecuted, not because we made a difference but because what we did went against the rule or permission of man?

What was Jesus' response?

¹⁷In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."

He did something good on the Sabbath.

THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS - JOHN 5:19-37

The Jews realized that Jesus was claiming equality with God (5:18). His answer made it clear that He is as much God as God the Father is God!

Jesus continued to explain His relationship with the Father:

1. Whatever Jesus does is in submission of the Father. ⁹ *Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.*
 - a. The Son can do nothing of Himself - whatever the Son does comes from seeing what the Father is doing.
 - b. The Father and Son are working together. The Father is taking the lead and the Son will follow.

2. There is a relationship of loving communication between the Father and the Son. - ²⁰ *For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.*
 - a. Love and communication go together – When you love someone, you will speak to them. Challenged relationships battle to communicate.
 - b. If communication flows easily, loves flows easily. Because the Father loves the Son, His will is continually disclosed through the Son.
 - c. The Son obeys by doing what the Father has revealed.
 - d. Greater work than the healing of the paralytic man.

3. There is an even greater responsibility. - ²¹ *For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.* ²² *Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,* ²³ *that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.*
 - a. The Son is given the task of giving life. – John refers to spiritual life – Salvation is to be born again.
 - b. The Son is given the task of judgement. – **Condemnation is not the purpose of Jesus' coming.** Condemnation is a position taken by men and women who prefer to stay in the dark when salvation is refused. The Saviour becomes the judge. The Father puts salvation as well as condemnation into the hands of Jesus.

4. Acquittal, Life and Resurrection - ²⁴ *"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.*
 - a. Freedom of condemnation – When someone trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ there are 3 things that happens to him/her.
 - i. Given eternal life
 - ii. There is a change in status – The person is justified Rom 5:18

¹⁸ *Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people*

b. Final resurrection to reward and honour – ²⁷*And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.* ²⁸**“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice²⁹ and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.**

- i. Jesus is the final Judge
- ii. Jesus will raise every human being from the dead
- iii. We shall give account of our lives
- iv. Some will be vindicated and honoured and others condemned.

5. Testimonies to the Son of God

- i. The Father testifies to Jesus - ³²*There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true.*
- ii. John the Baptist testifies to Jesus - ³³**“You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth.** ³⁴*Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved.* ³⁵*John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.*
- iii. Miracles testify to Jesus - ³⁶**“I have testimony weightier than that of John.** *For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.* ³⁷*And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form.*
- iv. Scriptures testify to Jesus - ³⁸*nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent.* ³⁹*You study^[a] the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me,* ⁴⁰*yet you refuse to come to me to have life.*

SUMMARY:

1. Jesus Christ came for the redemption of mankind
 2. He is interceding for us and paid the price so that we can be saved by grace.
 3. All authority has been given to him – New life but also condemnation.
 4. He will also have the final say during judgement day
-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do we know Him as our Saviour or will we only come to know Him one day as our judge?
2. How serious are we with our walk with Christ?
3. Are we prepared to give ourselves (the same sacrifice He gave) - to love and serve?
4. Do we understand the authority we have in Christ?