



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 13

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 5:18-29

Summary:

This section is mainly expositional – that is, John is seeking to explain and clarify. Jesus' monologue in verses 19-29 further develops an idea that he introduced in verse 17 – "My father is working until now, and I am working." First, John explains Jesus' meaning in verse 18 – that Jesus was equating his own work with God's work, thus equating himself with God. And then, in a profound sermon, Jesus reveals what it truly means for him to be equal with God. In this section, John is directly addressing the question, "Who is Jesus?"

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. Why were the Jewish religious leaders so angry with Jesus? Why not just ignore him if they thought he was lying or deluded? Why do you think they couldn't even entertain the *possibility* that he was telling the truth?
3. **Application:** How do you respond when someone calls your most cherished convictions into question? How do you respond when someone attacks your political beliefs? How about your religious commitments? Is the Pharisees' hatred for Jesus understandable (not justified, but understandable)? How do we fall into the same habits in our own day?

4. What did Jesus mean when he said that the Son only does what he sees the Father doing (v. 19)? Does it mean that the Son merely imitates the Father, or is there something deeper at work? What does v. 20 say about the relationship between Father and Son?

5. **Application:** Jesus draws a direct parallel between honoring the Son and honoring the Father (v. 23). In what ways do we sometimes dishonor the Son? What things in our lives can be uniquely dishonoring to the Son? What does it look like to honor the Father *BY* honoring the Son?

6. More than once in this passage, Jesus refers to the Son's role in executing judgment. How does this shape your picture of Jesus? What does it mean for those who follow him? How about for those who reject him?

7. Who are the 'dead' that Jesus refers to in v. 25? What is he saying? What does it mean to 'hear' the voice of the Son?

8. In vv.28-29, Jesus says "Do not marvel at this..." referring to the fact that those who hear his voice will live. He's clearly implying that what's coming will be even more incredible than that! What does Jesus point to in the future that will be even more marvelous than this?

9. **Application:** How does (or could) the anticipation of the resurrection (vv. 28-29) change the way you live *now*?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?