

John 5 Part 2

Intro: We have seen Jesus' miracles as well as His discussions with Nicodemus, and the Samaritan woman. We have seen that He is the Word of God incarnate - GOD in human flesh, the Creator walking among men. We have seen Him show His authority over the Sabbath in purposefully healing, and having a man carry his bed on this day. **He is the Lord of the Sabbath. He is greater than the Temple. He can give rest unto our souls!** Here we find Jesus response to the charges laid against him from the Jewish religious leaders.

- 16 And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.
- 17 But Jesus answered them, **My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.**
- 18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

I. JESUS' POWER AND AUTHORITY SEEN THROUGH A CHIASM V.18-30

One of the many functions of chiasm is to help the interpreter clearly see where the literary unit begins and where the unit is brought to a literary conclusion. First, I will show a diagram of chiastic structure, before attempting to explain it. The literary unit, when analyzed, has the following structure: The sentence, either word-by-word or at the very least, thought-by-thought, is repeated at the beginning and at the end of the literary unit. It is as if the original author moves from A1 to B1, from B1 to C1, from C1 to D1 and then suddenly switches gears and moves backwards according to exactly the same order (D2, C2, B2, A2). John 5: 19-30 is structured as a clear-cut chiasm. Not only are thought-by-thought parallel repetitive structures present, but my positive identification of it as a true chiasm is verified by clearly repetitive word-by-word occurrences as well. Let us take a look:

- A1 19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIMSELF, but WHAT HE SEETH the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also DOETH THE SON LIKEWISE.
- B1 20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him GREATER WORKS THAN THESE, that ye may MARVEL.
- 21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; EVEN SO THE SON QUICKENETH WHOM HE WILL.
- C1 22 For the FATHER judgeth no man, but HATH COMMITTED ALL JUDGMENT UNTO THE SON:
23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.
- D1 24 VERILY, VERILY, I say unto you, HE THAT HEARETH my word, and believeth on him that sent me, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, and shall not come into condemnation; but is PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE.
- D2 25 VERILY, VERILY, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when THE DEAD SHALL HEAR the voice of the Son of God: and THEY THAT HEAR SHALL LIVE.
- C2 26 For as the FATHER hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;
- 27 And hath GIVEN HIM AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT also, because he is the Son of man.
- B2 28 MARVEL not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which ALL THAT ARE IN THE GRAVES SHALL HEAR HIS VOICE,
- 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.
- A2 30 I CAN OF MINE OWN SELF DO NOTHING: AS I HEAR, I JUDGE: and my judgment is just; because I SEEK NOT MINE OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME.

A. THE FOCUS OF THE PASSAGE

Through his brilliant literary creation, John first states, and then essentially restates in reverse order, the following three ideas:

- 1) Jesus is utterly dependent and reliant on his Father, who acts only in accordance with His will. (A1& A2)
- 2) The Father and the Son, in equal measure, give life to the dead. Because of the arrival of the Son, the hour of resurrection for the wicked and the righteous draws near. (B1 and B2)
- 3) The Father has fully commissioned the Son to rule/ judge in his place. (C1 and C2) At this point, John makes us aware of the chiasmic center, thereby, showing the emphasis he meant to give this literary unit. In this text, the emphasis might be summarized as follows:
- 4) Eternal life rests on one's response to the words of Jesus, believing that He is the Son of God sent by the Father to bring victory over death and sin. (D1 and D2).

B. VERSE BY VERSE ANALYSIS

1. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FATHER AND THE SON

19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

This is an amazing passage for us to understand. Here are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- 1) There is one God. *Duet. 6:4*
- 2) He exists in a plurality in unity (a Tri-unity) (*Gen 1:1,26; 18, 19; Isa 48:16*)
- 3) The Son always existed with the Father (*John 17:5*)
- 4) He is the express image of the Father (*Heb 1:3*)
- 5) The Word (who is God) became flesh (*John 1:14; Isa 7:14; 9:6*)
- 6) The Father and the Son are one (*John 10:30*)
- 7) In Jesus "dwelt all of the fullness of the Godhead bodily" - *Col 2:9*

A. *Why can the Son do nothing of Himself?*

- The Son is not a separate deity.
- Jesus the man (in human flesh) does nothing apart from the Father.
- He "does always the things that please the Father" - *John 8:29*
- The Greek word for "sees" also has the idea of "understands"
- Just as our body doesn't operate separately from our brain, Jesus does not operate outside of the Father's will.

B. This is why He says "*I can of mine own self do nothing.*"

- He is 100% man, but also 100% God.
- This is hard for us to grasp, but God is 3 in 1.
 - (Father, brother, son) (Body, soul, spirit) (Solid, liquid, gas)

2. THE POWER OF THE SON

20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

The Son has power to give life to the dead, just as the Father does. By the way, the Father loves the Son. (Gen 22). There are three people (if you don't include Adam) that were brought back to life by the Father in the Old Testament (A widow's son - 1 Kings 17:22, The son of a Shunamite woman - 2 Kings 4:32-36, and an unnamed man - 2 Kings 13:20-21). Jesus was raised from the dead by the Father (Rom 6:4; Gal 1:1). Jesus raised the widows son from Nain (Luke 7:11-18), Jarius' (Ya'ir's) daughter (Mark 5:35-38), and Lazarus (John 11).

- Vs. 28-29 are speaking of the final resurrection. This happens after the millennium (Rev. 20:5) This passage correlates strongly to Daniel 12:1-2. The unsaved have their resurrection too. It's called "the 2nd death" - Rev 20:11-15.

3. THE AUTHORITY OF THE SON

- 22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:
 23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.
 26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;
 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.
 This passage correlates strongly to Daniel 7:13-15 as well as to Psalm 2.

13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.
 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.
 15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

4. OUR REACTION TO THE SON

- 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
 25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

PAST
 "Passed from death unto life"

PRESENT
 "Hath everlasting life"

FUTURE
 "Shall not come into condemnation"

Before we are born-again, we are "dead in trespasses and sins." (Eph 2:1, Col 2:13)
 The dead spoken of in this passage is not only referring to the physically dead in the 1st resurrection, but also the spiritually dead, lost individual who becomes spiritually alive when he is born-again.

II. JESUS' WITNESSES TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE V.31-47

At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you. - Deuteronomy 17:6,7

One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established. - Deuteronomy 19:15

17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. - John 8:17

A. JOHN THE BAPTIST

- 31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.
32 There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.
33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.
34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.
35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

The whole point of all of this is “that ye might be saved.” It is here and now that we see Jesus’ purpose and heart. This echoes what he told Nicodemus in John 3 about why He was come into this world - to save.

B. THE WORKS OF JESUS

- 36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

Jesus had just healed a man moments ago!! Jesus is trying to get them to realize who He is - yet another reason for His healing, and command to carry on the Sabbath, to have this very conversation with the Jews.

C. THE FATHER

- 37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

- 38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: **for** whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

Jesus is driving home the point that He and the Father are intimately connected, and that he was sent from the Father!

D. THE SCRIPTURES

- 39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

- 40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

- 41 I receive not honour from men.

- 42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

- 43 I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

- 44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Here, Jesus is calling them out for their fleshly sinful pride! He shows His Messiahship and His omniscience.

E. MOSES

- 45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.

- 46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

- 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:27

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Luke 24:44

Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. John 1:45

Jesus is... The Seed of the woman, Shiloh, Jehovah who appeared to Abraham, The Sacrifice God would provide on Moriah, The Passover Lamb, The Prophet that should come... He is the I AM, the Elohim, the Day of Atonement.

LUKE 16:19-31