

Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

Sermon Title: Jesus Defends His Divinity

January 12, 2020

Today's Scripture: See insert

Introduction: What if there was only one person in the Trinity? What if all there has been for all eternity was God the Father? Can you imagine the difficulties that would bring to us? There would be no salvation brought to us by the Son's death on the cross. There would be no way to relate easily to God the Father if it weren't for God the Son to reveal Him to us.

Main point: Because Jesus is God in the flesh, He deserves all of our worship, obedience, and service. All.

Context:

Exegesis:

1. Jesus defends His divinity by claiming that He has the same authority as the Father to work whenever they want, including the Sabbath day. **John 5:16–17 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." (ESV)**
 - After God the Father was finished with creating the world in 6 days did he really rest on the seventh? If he did we would all be dead. The job of sustaining the world is a 24/7/365 days a year job. If God the Father has a right to work on the Sabbath so does the Son.
 - The tense of the verb Jesus is using is the present tense. Present tense indicates ongoing action with no start or end date. Since the same tense was used of the Father working in creation then Jesus is saying that he was working alongside the Father at the very same time. This infuriated the Jews because they picked up on this.
2. Jesus defends his divinity by claiming He has the same nature as God the Father. **John 5:18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. (ESV)**
 - So, if we can prove to anyone that Jesus claims of divinity are logical then we have to ask if he's lying or crazy. Those are the only 3 choices. Rational and true. Lying and deceptive. Crazy as a lunatic. Ponder. C.S. Lewis was the first to make these conclusions.
 - We are so familiar with the term Father, we don't appreciate the impact this had

on the Jews. Closest they got was “Our Father” but never “My Father”. Imagine your relationship to your own father. There are only so many people who can say they are related to your father. Only your siblings can say that. This is huge.

- But that’s not all. By saying that God was his Father He is indicating that he shares the same substance or nature that the Father has. Just as you share the same genes, personality, character in many ways so does Christ share the same nature as the Father.
 - This means that every divine attribute of divinity including power, knowledge, holiness, faithfulness that is seen in God the Father in the OT is in the Son.
 - Why is Jesus pushing this so hard? He can’t downplay it or hope that people will get it later. There can be no salvation apart from trusting in a divine Savior.
 - **John 10:30 I and the Father are one.” (ESV)**
 - Let’s examine this passage. Turn to John 10:22-30 This is not oneness of purpose. Nor is it a oneness of person, that would have been in the masculine gender. Context tells us that Jesus is identical to the Father in giving salvation and keeping salvation. Humans can’t do that.
 - Here’s a practical question to ask ourselves. If Jesus is God and Lord of all and worthy of all worship then shouldn’t we organize our lives around His Lordship? For example, if we had a Saturday afternoon service scheduled during the Vikings game would it be an honor to the Lord to cancel the service because most of your people would not show? One of our churches did. Football took priority over worship. Discuss in Second Hour.
3. Jesus defends His divinity by saying he has the same power as God and they work together in unison. **John 5:19–21 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.**
- But it’s more. Working together in unison means that they both have the same goals and desires and plans. Neither works independent of the other. Therefore no one could ever say they always at all times do exactly what the Heavenly Father wants done. Only God can say that.
4. Jesus defends His divinity by indicating that He is loved by the Father like no one else could be loved except another member of the Godhead. **For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing.**
- John MacArthur explains that God loves the Son more than He loves us. If we say that God sent His Son to die for us because He loves us, that is secondary to His love for His Son.. God sent His Son to die so that the Father could purchase a cleansed and pure bride for His Son. That is the primary point of our redemption. It is not mainly about us but about the Son.

5. Jesus defended His divinity by explaining He has the same sovereign power as the Father. **And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. (ESV)**
 - The main point is not Jesus' power to bring people back to life who have physically died but to give spiritual life to the spiritually dead. And notice that it is His choice whom he saves, just as it is the Father's choice who gets chosen.

6. Jesus defended His divinity by claiming that the Father had given Him the authority to judge all mankind, **John 5:22 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, (ESV)**
 - Not only does the privilege of judging the world go only to one who is God, only God is qualified to judge the world because only God knows all things. If he did not know a key fact or a hidden motive he would not be able to judge fairly.

7. Jesus defended His divinity by claiming He is owed worship as the Father is owed worship. **John 5:23–24 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. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. (ESV)**