

Discussion questions: Why was this man sick?

Was it due to sin? v14

Did he show gratitude to Jesus? v13

v11

v15

VII 5:16. The confrontation begins. Sabbath violation was very serious. What was the penalty? Ex 31:15.

5:17 Jesus' answer requires explanation. The rabbis were uneasy about the anthropomorphic implications of Gen 2:2,3. "Is God like a man who gets tired and must rest?" They concluded that God rested from the work of creation on the Sabbath but that the work or sustaining and judging continues on the Sabbath. What was the evidence? Babies are born, people die, rain falls on the Sabbath. God must be working.

v18. The bold assertion of Jesus was fully understood by his interrogators and would have aroused apoplectic rage. They now have two serious accusations against Jesus. What was the third major accusation against Jesus that we learned in the synoptics?

VIII John 5:19-47. The chapter concludes with a major Johannine-Jesus discourse. It has several inter-related themes.

A v19-23. v18c "Making himself equal with God" was a red flag to the Jewish teachers. In the practices of Persian and Seleucid kings, it had meant independence from God. This passage refutes that concept. Jesus asserts that Father and Son share the works of life and death; the Son does what the Father delegates.

B v24-30. Issues of life and death, resurrection and judgment.

C v31-40. Jesus is on trial; the language is now legal.

In Jewish courts, a person could not be condemned on the basis of one witness; two or three were required. Dt 19:15. A person's own witness was not considered necessarily false but as too biased to be useful, Jesus calls four witness on his behalf: John the Baptist, the works of Jesus, the Father and the scriptures.

D 41-47. The tone shifts from Jesus as defendant to Jesus as prosecutor. The accusers base their case on Moses and Torah. Jesus asserts that Moses is their accuser because Moses was writing about Messiah, God's prophet in Dt 18:15. and the Jewish leaders were unable to accept it.

IX Conclusion: The conflict is now joined. The people who base their faith and hope on the teaching of Moses have been told that they have betrayed and lost Moses. They bicker about the minutiae of Sabbath regulations and fail to recognize God's prophet and messenger.

X Next time: John C 6, Willhauck C 4. Bread.

GMx