

Introduction: When life seems absolutely hopeless...

The Context: John 1-5

The Structure:

- The Story - An individual with no hope and a “strange” miracle John 5:1-15
- The Conflict - Intentional and strategic John 5:16-18
- The Teaching - Two direct points John 5:19-30
- The Validation - Three testimonies John 5:31-47
- The Question - Will you _____?

The Challenge: Jesus purposely challenges the cultural status quo to reveal His person and His purpose in the world.

The Story: An individual with no hope and a “strange” miracle

John 5:1-15

Observations –

1. Jesus asks a strange question
2. Jesus gives no mention of His motive
3. Jesus doesn't reveal His identity
4. Jesus shows no “instrumental” means (He just speaks)
5. Jesus leaves immediately
6. Jesus purposely creates controversy (He heals on the Sabbath)
7. The man expresses no gratitude
8. Jesus reproves and warns him
9. Jesus affirms the relationship between sin and negative consequences
10. Jesus reveals His role as Healer and Judge in Jerusalem

The Conflict: Intentional and strategic

John 5:16-18

¹⁶ *So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute Him.*

¹⁷ *Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I too am working.”*

¹⁸ *For this reason they tried all the harder to kill Him; not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.*

The Teaching: Two direct points

Point #1 – Jesus explains His relationship to the Father:

John 5:19-23

- ¹⁹ *Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, 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.*
- ²⁰ *For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does. Yes, to your amazement, He will show Him even greater things than these.*
- 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.*

Point #2 – Jesus explains His relationship to the world:

- He is our _____:

John 5:24-26

²⁴ *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned but has crossed over from death to life.*

²⁵ *I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.*

²⁶ *For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in Himself.*

- He is our _____:

John 5:27-30

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 voice*

²⁹ *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.*

³⁰ *By Myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is just, for I seek not to please Myself but Him who sent Me.*

The Validation: Three testimonies

John 5:31-47

The Message: There's hope for the hopeless

<u>The Man</u>				<u>Us</u>
The Man's Physical Condition = Helpless	←	The Condition	→	Our Spiritual Condition = Helpless
The Question for Him: "Do you want to get well?"	←	The Question	→	The Question for Us: "Do you want to get well?"
The Man's Response: "I need help!"	←	The Response	→	Our Response: "I need help!"
The Man Received: Physical Life and Power	←	The Result	→	We Receive: Spiritual Life and Power
The Warning: "Your sin will be judged."	←	The Warning	→	The Warning: "Your sin will be judged."

Discussion Questions:

1. What was so "strange" about this story? Why?
2. Are there times in our lives when we really don't want to help?
Why do you think this is so?
3. Why did Jesus purposely heal on the Sabbath?
4. What three things occur in a person's life when they hear and believe? (see John 5:24)
5. How does Christ's role as "Judge" impact how you live your daily life?