

Slide Who is Jesus?**Slide Jesus is Equal to God the Father in His Person**

At the time of Jesus Sabbath observance was at the heart and center of Jewish life and worship. Jesus' healing on the Sabbath leads us to verses 16 and 17, "This was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." Jesus' response implies that the Sabbath was instituted by God for mans benefit. As Jesus clearly said in the Gospel according to Mark, **Slide** "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27 ESV) Then logically the restriction of working on the Sabbath does not apply to God for God instituted the Sabbath and there is evidence of Him working on the Sabbath. The writer of Hebrews tells us of God's glory and His work, **Slide** "He (Jesus) is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power." (Hebrews 1:3a ESV) It is only by the power, intervention and word of God that the universe does not fly apart. It was by Jesus' word alone that the man by the pool was healed. Jesus states that He works on the Sabbath just as God the Father maintains the universe on all days including the Sabbath and this is a claim to Jesus' deity and equality with God. Jesus and God the Father are equal in personhood. **Blank**

These words spoken by Jesus also served as a rebuke to the Jewish legalistic system, which charged Him for doing good deeds and showing mercy on the Sabbath. Jesus is simply saying it is right to do good works on the Sabbath, since God does. What is ironic is that these unbelieving Jews performed acts or works on the Sabbath as

well. Jesus asks the Pharisees about their Sabbath practices in John chapter 7, **Slide** “If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man’s whole body well?” (John 7:23 ESV) Jesus does far greater good and fulfills the Law of Moses better than these angry self-serving Jewish leaders. Jesus likewise confronted a group of Jewish lawyers in Luke saying to them, **Slide** “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” **Blank** (Luke 14:5 & 6 ESV) Jesus confronted the Pharisees and the lawyers hypocrisy and this is why verse 18 reads, “...The Jews were seeking all the more to kill him...” The verb tense that the Apostle John uses here at the beginning of verse 18 indicates continuous action. The Jews continually sought to kill Jesus. To these unbelieving Jews - Jesus was breaking the Sabbath, which in reality so did they when it suited them. Jesus was threatening their position of power and He was claiming to be equal with God. The scriptures backed up Jesus’ claim of deity; the Old Testament scriptures spoke of Him in detail and of His coming. Jesus as the Messiah was also shown to be true by the miracles, signs and powerful teachings He did every day He walked on this earth. Yet, the Pharisees were blind to the truth, just as the majority of people today are blind to the deity of Christ. People say, “Prove to me that Jesus is God or show me God.” These demands remind me of the story of the early church father Augustine. **When a unbelieving man confronted him and shoved an carved idol into his face and said, “Here is my god; where is yours?” Augustine replied, Slide** “I cannot show you my God; **not** because there is no God to show, but because you have no eyes to see Him.” The eyes of the Jewish leaders then and now, and the eyes of most people today are blinded by the world and they do not see God, their hearts are hearts of

stone and they do not feel, sense or see God and their ambition is for the things of this world, not for the spiritual life.

Slide Jesus is Equal to God in His Works

Verses 19 and 20 teach us that Jesus is equal to God in His works. Read along with me in your bibles, ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.” For a mere man to claim to be God or equal to God was, for the Jews, an act of blasphemy and this would have been true if Jesus were merely a man. For a man to make this claim today would also be blasphemy, unless he was God, but we know God has already come and we know Christ will return again. Had these Jews misunderstood Jesus’ claim that God the Father and He as the Son are One? If so, then Jesus would have corrected them. But, Jesus does not deny His claim, but He stresses that the Father and the Son are equal in the works they do and Jesus is the Son. As the Jews confront Jesus, He does not back down, but becomes more forceful in His claim. Can anyone tell me what the Greek word is translated here at the beginning of verse 19 as **Slide** “Truly, truly”? That's right, it is **Slide** ἀμήν “*amen*.” When we say “amen” after prayer or “amen” in response to something someone has said or to the reading of scripture or to what the preacher has preached; we are saying it is the truth. When we write a letter and end it with “truly yours” we are saying what I have written is true or genuine. Here Jesus is saying *amen and amen* or what I am about to say is truth and now hear the truth “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.” Perfect harmony is what

characterizes the joint working of the Father and Son and this stems from the absolute unity they share in the Trinity. In Jesus' high priestly prayer to God the Father recorded in John chapter 17, Jesus says beginning in verse 20, **Slide** "I do not ask for these (believers) only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:20-21 ESV) Here is the bottom-line. For these Jewish leaders to accuse Jesus of wrongdoing they were actually doing what they were accusing Jesus of; they were questioning the holy nature of God Himself. Jesus and the Father are One and this is one proof to Jesus' deity. **Blank**

John's words are carefully chosen here and they tell us that the Father and Son are One and the same. Jesus does what the Father does because they are One. I think of the child Jesus, the boy and then the young man as He learned the trade of carpentry from His earthly adopted father Joseph. The goal was to learn the trade of carpentry and become as good as his father. This is the normal process with an apprenticeship – to become like the master. But here in our study passage it is different for Jesus is God the Son and has had a relationship with God the Father always and they have been the same from eternity past – both are Master and never was there an apprentice.

Lets go further in our study passage, read along with me, in verse 20, "For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing." This is a unique verse let me explain why. Let me begin by first going to the Gospel According to Matthew. Remember in Matthew chapter 3 John the Baptist has just baptized Jesus and brought Him up out of the water and then **Slide** "...the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him (Jesus); and behold, a voice from heaven said,

“This is my **beloved** Son, with whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16-17 ESV) In this and all other passages the word “beloved” or “loves” or “loved” when the scriptures are speaking of the love between God the Father and God the Son comes from the Greek root word “*agapao*” the love of will and choice that is pure and does not depend on the actions of others. However, here in verse 20, **Slide** “the Father loves the Son” the word translated as “love” is **Slide** “*phileō*” the love of deep feelings; the warmth of affection that a father feels for his son. This is the only time in the New Testament that “*phileō*” is used to refer to God the Father’s love for Jesus the Son. Equally unique is the present tense of the verb indicating an eternally uninterrupted and all-knowing love that leaves no room for any other conclusion other than Jesus and God the Father are equal in their works and that Jesus knows God’s will as the Son and only does the Will of God the Father. Jesus concludes verse 20 declaring that God the Father would show still greater works through Jesus and Jesus would carry out these great works so that mankind may marvel and be in awe of God.

Slide Jesus is Equal to God in His Power and Sovereignty

In the next verse, verse 21, we learn of Jesus being equal to God the Father in His power and sovereignty. “For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.” Here Jesus says that He has the same powers as God. The scriptures teach that only God has the power to give life to the dead. In Deuteronomy God says of Himself, **Slide** “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.” (Deuteronomy 32:39 ESV) The prophet Samuel writes so we may know God has complete sovereignty over all life, **Slide** “The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.” (1 Samuel

2:6^{ESV}) In 1 Kings the prophet Elijah takes the widows dead child and asks God to bring him back to life. **Slide** “And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived.” (1 Kings 17:22^{ESV}) Elijah did not bring life into the dead child – it was God alone. Since the scriptures teach that only God can bring the dead back to life and since Jesus also raised the dead - then He must be God. In Matthew chapter 9 the ruler came to Jesus because his daughter had just died and Jesus follows him and on the way to the ruler’s house Jesus first heals the woman and then brings the little girl back to life. What is even more important than Jesus giving physical life to the dead is the miracle that Jesus gives spiritual life to those who are dead to God and living under the power of the prince of this world. Unlike Elijah in 1 Kings, Jesus did not act as God’s representative when He raised the dead, but as God Himself. As God chooses when He gives life, so does the Son choose, in perfect agreement with the Father. **Slide** Jesus says, “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.” (John 6:37^{ESV}) All those chosen by God from before the foundation of the world will come to Christ. One of the men of God I enjoy reading is Charles Spurgeon and he said this of God’s sovereignty, **Slide** “There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God's sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that sovereignty has ordained their afflictions that sovereignty overrules them, and that sovereignty will sanctify them all. **Slide** There is nothing for which the children ought to more earnestly contend to than the doctrine of their Master over all creation--the Kingship of God over all the works of His own hands--the Throne of God and His right to sit upon that throne...for it is God upon the Throne whom we trust.” God’s sovereignty is why believers experience peace, in all circumstances, both good and bad.

Slide Jesus is Equal to God in His Judgment

In verse 22 of our study passage we come to understand, “The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son.” Jesus’ authority to give spiritual life to whomever He chooses is consistent with His authority to judge all mankind on the last day. Jesus said, **Slide** “... everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God; but he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.” (Luke 12:8-9 NASB) W. C. Fields, the American comedian who died on Christmas day 1946 represents many American’s attitude about living life on their own terms until they near death. Just before his death a friend visited W. C. Fields' hospital room and was surprised to find him thumbing through a Bible. The friend asked what Fields was doing with a Bible, Fields replied, **Slide** "I'm looking for loopholes." But there are no loopholes, Jesus was clear if one died “unregenerate” that **Slide** “the one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.” (John 12:48 ESV) Because the will of God the Father and Jesus, God the Son, are in perfect harmony, all judgment is given to Christ because His judgment will be the very same judgment of God the Father.

Slide Jesus is Equal to God in His Honor

This morning we finish with verses 23 and 24 that show Jesus is equal to God the Father in His Honor. “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. ²⁴ Truly, truly (or amen, amen), 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.” The Father’s purpose in entrusting all His works, power, sovereignty and judgment to Jesus is so **Slide** “that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the

Father.” It is only fitting that God the Father and Jesus who are equal in all aspects should be given equal honor. God’s honor is not diminished by the honor given to Jesus, but on the contrary God’s honor is increased. While the unbelieving and arrogant Jews, we see here in John, thought they were truly worshipping God while at the same time rejecting His Son the Messiah, in truth they were not for **Slide** **“whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.”** When the people sought to find Jesus in John chapter 6 and found him on the other side of the sea they asked, **Slide** **“What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”** Jesus answered them, **“This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”** (John 6:28-29 ESV) Anyone who refuses to honor Jesus while claiming to honor God the Father is in truth self-deceiving and lost. Jesus made this even clearer later in John chapter 15 saying; **Slide** **“Whoever hates me hates my Father also.”** (John 15:23 ESV) It simply does not get any clearer than this. Jesus here strongly asserts that He and the Father are One in all ways. You must decide if He is a self-diluted egomaniac or is who He claimed to be – God very God. The prophet Isaiah quoted God when he wrote **Slide** **“I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other.”** (Isaiah 42:8 ESV) God is a jealous God and will not have His honor given to anyone else. God told Moses in Exodus, **Slide** **“You shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God!”** (Exodus 34:14 ESV) When the end comes, either at the end of one’s life or when Jesus returns, everyone will obey the Father’s command to honor Jesus Christ. We are stubborn people – we can receive the grace and mercy of God through Jesus here and now during our mortal lives or we will submit when it is too late and judgment has already been given. There is no neutral ground, for as Jesus said, **Slide** **“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.”** (Luke 11:23 ESV) Jesus is God as defined in the scriptures. He is not a god defined by man, He is not a prophet, like

Isaiah or Elijah, He is not a great teacher like Plato or Augustine – Jesus is God very God or He is meaningless. Show me the man you honor and I will see the man you are. Do you show honor to the men of the world – sports greats like Babe Ruth, movie stars like Brad Pitt or, or, do you live your life in honor and in reverence of Jesus – God the Son? For those who choose a life that honors God – there is the “Fruit of the Spirit” evident in their lives and since they honor Jesus, they are then people of honor. For believers Jesus makes this promise, **Slide** “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” (John 14:27_{ESV}) We can know true peace for Jesus is Lord all, even the unsaved, but He is only the Savior to those who believe.

Amen