



The Astonishing Claims of Jesus

John 5:19-29

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 (John 5:19—KJV).

Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner” (John 5:19—NASB).

Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise” (John 5:19—NRSV).

The religious leaders wanted Jesus killed because He broke the Sabbath and called God His own Father, “thereby making himself equal to God” (John 5:18). Jesus did not deny His equality to God. Rather, Jesus gave additional reasons why He was equal to God. Jesus stressed His Father was still working, so He was too. Jesus said He did not break the Sabbath, because He and His Father worked together on the Sabbath. They both healed people and did good on the Sabbath. Jesus also said that He never did anything independently of the Father. He never did ministry His way instead of God’s way. He declared that He never did anything that God did not do. Jesus explained that everything the religious leaders and the people saw Him doing was God’s way of doing things. When He saw what the Father was doing; then, whatever He saw the Father doing He did too. He stressed that because the Father loved Him the Father would show Him even greater works than the good works He had been doing, so people would be astonished. Jesus made many other claims about himself and declared that the Father wanted people to honor Him as the Son of God just as they honored God the Father. Ultimately, Jesus promised that someday all the dead in their graves would hear His voice and come out to the resurrection of life or to the resurrection of condemnation. Jesus showed and told many reasons for believing that He is the Son of God.

Thinking Further

1. What does the Son do that the Father does? Or, how would you compare what the Father does with what the Son does?
2. Why does the Father show the Son all that He himself is doing?
3. What are some of the astonishing things that Jesus said He would do that He did?
4. Why has the Father given all judgment to the Son?
5. How can someone avoid coming under judgment? What does “coming under judgment” mean?