



**Gospel of John - Chapters 5 - 6: Book Study**  
**The Works of the Father**  
**Sunday July 27, 2025 - Sermon Outline**

**CHAPTER FIVE: THE WORKS OF THE FATHER**

**HEALING AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA (JOHN 5:1-15)**

- 1 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.**
- 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.**
- 3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water.**
- 4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.**
- 5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years.**
- 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"**
- 7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."**
- 8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."**
- 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.**
- 10 The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."**
- 11 He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' "**
- 12 Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?"**
- 13 But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.**
- 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."**
- 15 The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.**

**Vs 1: a feast of the Jews**

We do not know for sure what feast this was. But a strong guess, based on Jesus' pattern of attending major feasts (John 2:13; 6:4; 7:2,10; 11:55), especially the Passover, it is thought that the feast referred to in John 5:1 could be the Passover.



### **Vs 2: the pool of Bethesda**

The Sheep Gate is one of the original gates of ancient Jerusalem, located in the northeastern wall near the Temple Mount. The Sheep Gate is also mentioned in Nehemiah 3:1,32. This was the gate through which sheep were brought into the city, particularly those for Temple sacrifices.

Bethesda means "House of Mercy" or "House of Grace." Archaeologists uncovered a double pool with five porticoes (covered walkways), exactly matching John's description — confirming the historical accuracy of John's Gospel. This was excavated in the late 19th century, the site is located just north of the Temple Mount, near St. Anne's Church in modern-day Jerusalem. These five porches provided shelter to disabled, blind, and lame people hoping for healing.

### **Vs 3-4: the stirring of the water**

No verified historical evidence confirms actual healings from the stirring of the waters at the pool of Bethesda. The belief could have been just some superstition that John may have recorded to explain why all these people were gathered around the pool.

### **Vs 5: infirmity for 38 years**

We do not know what it was. We do not know what caused it. We do not know how old he was at this time. But in 38 years, he had not got well waiting at the pool.

### **Vs 6: Do you want to be made well?**

An interesting question for a "stranger" to ask this crippled man. "Do you want to be made well?"

God is looking at our "want to".

In Matthew 20:32 the Lord Jesus asked the two blind men "*What do you want Me to do for you?*"

In Matthew 15:28 the Lord Jesus told the Canaanite woman: "*O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire*", or as you want it.

John 15:7 "*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*"

Mark 11:24 "*Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*"

Our "want to" or "desire" or "will" is involved.



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*Application:* How strong is your “want to” or your desire or will to be get healed or to receive something from God?

Vs 7:

When there is no help on our side, Jesus steps in!

**Vs 8-9: Rise take up your bed and walk**

When Jesus spoke those words, God’s healing power must have gone through the man’s body and made him completely well. The man realized something had happened. The man without making any excuse took up his bed and walked. He did it without worrying about religion - it was the sabbath day. He did not even know that it was Jesus who was speaking to him (vs 13).

**God’s “sovereign work” and God’s “promised work”**

An obvious question we would all as is what about all the others in the “great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed” (vs 3) around the pool. Why did Jesus heal just this one man and leave all the others unwell?

We must understand the difference between God’s “sovereign work” and God’s “promised work”. God’s sovereign work is what God does entirely on His own prerogative. He initiates it and often does so apart from our faith. However, God’s sovereign work happens as He chooses (Psalm 115:3). God’s promised work is based on His promises and in response to our faith and action on His promises. God’s promises are available to all and anyone who believes.

Consider these examples:

Salvation – Salvation is God’s free gift available to everyone. God’s “promised work” takes place as we share the Gospel, and people make their decision to receive Jesus. And yet, there are times, when God on His own prerogative will supernaturally encounter some people as He chooses, e.g. Saul on the road to Damascus, and they will turn to Christ. This is God’s “sovereign work” in salvation. The “Damascus road experience” does not happen to everyone. However, the Gospel being proclaimed is available to everyone.

Healing – God’s promise for healing is available to all. Even during the ministry of Jesus we see many people who came to Jesus in faith and received healing. This is God’s “promised work”. And then we observe certain cases, as in the healing of this man by the pool of Bethesda, when he had no idea of who Jesus was, and yet Jesus healed him. This is an example of God’s “sovereign work”.



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*Application:* In what ways are you helping people receive God's "promised work" of salvation, healing, provision, etc. into their lives?

**Vs 14: sin no more**

Jesus told this man, *"See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."*

We do not know the details of this man's life. We can infer that his sickness was because of or in some way connected to his life of sin, perhaps sinful habits, sinful behavior, etc. Hence, the Lord Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, gave this specific instruction to this man. We do not hear Jesus giving this instruction to all sick people He healed, telling them all "go and sin no more". Hence, we should not state that all sickness is because of sin in someone's life.

On the other hand, the fact that the Lord Jesus gave such a serious warning is something to pay attention to. To paraphrase what Jesus stated: 'You've been healed. But don't go back to your old sinful ways. This could potentially allow a worse sickness to come on you'. We know that any kind of sin opens the door for Satan to gain entrance into our lives. The Bible tells us *"nor give place to the devil"* (Ephesians 4:27).

**THE SON AND THE FATHER (JOHN 5:16-20)**

**16 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.**

**17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."**

**18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

**19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.**

**20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.**

**Vs 16-18 Equality with God**

Two reasons why the Jews sought to kill Jesus  
a, He broke the Sabbath (vs 16)



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b, He made Himself equal with God – to the Jewish audience, Jesus made Himself equal with God by simply stating that *"My Father is working straight through, even on the Sabbath. So am I."* (Message Bible)

When the Jews heard Jesus making the claim that the Father God is working all days of the week, including the Sabbath, and so Jesus Himself works on all day, they understood that as "equality" with God. We know that according to the Law of Moses, work was forbidden on the Sabbath (Exodus 20:10). However, Jews understood that God still "worked" on the Sabbath. God upholds creation, gives life, judges the world all days of the week. There is ongoing continuous divine activity every moment of every day. But only God could do this without violating the Sabbath. God was above the Law because He is its Giver. So, for them to hear Jesus claiming to work on the Sabbath because the Father God did so, was blasphemy, and claiming equality with God who alone could work on the Sabbath. To the Jews making such a statement meant that Jesus "said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God" (vs 18).

Right here in John 5:16-18 we see one of the strongest affirmations of Jesus' deity in the Gospel of John. Jesus was not misunderstood - He was understood clearly to be claiming equality with God. And there are many more such references pointing to the deity of Christ in the Gospel of John.

The Son is distinct from the Father, but the Son (in who He is as deity) is equal to the Father. [Side note: The Son (as walking in His humanity) was also subordinate or submitted to the Father during His earthly life.] By Jesus claiming that He was doing the works of the Father, to the Jews that was Him claiming equality with the Father. Consider an earthly example to illustrate the son being equal to the father in human terms. Imagine a father who is a cardiac surgeon and performs such medical interventions. He has a son. There is a time when the son is subordinate to the father. But imaging the son also becomes a cardiac surgeon and performs similar medical interventions. The son is now equal to the father, because they both do the same kind of work.

#### **Vs 19-20: I do what I see the Father do**

The Lord Jesus walked in such love and unity with the Father, that the Father revealed what He wanted done and the Lord Jesus just followed through with that.

*Application:* Can we walk in such fellowship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, so that when God expresses His heart to us, we follow through and do on earth what He desires?



### **The Father's works**

It is clear that the Father's works are works of supernatural healing and deliverance. The Father has not stopped working. He still does the supernatural.

### **HONOR THE SON JUST AS YOU HONOR THE FATHER (JOHN 5:21-29)**

**21** For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

**22** For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

**23** that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

**24** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

**25** Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, 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 to have life in Himself,

**27** and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

**28** Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

**29** and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

The Lord Jesus now extends His equality to the Father, not just in terms of working on the Sabbath, but now in raising the dead and judgement. Only God has authority over death and can resurrect the dead (Acts 26:8; Romans 4:17; 2 Corinthians 1:9). Only God sits as the ultimate Judge for eternal life or death. The Lord Jesus states very clearly that the Son resurrects and will be final Judge (vs 21-22). And because He is co-equal with the Father, all should honor and worship the Son just as they honor and worship the Father (vs 23).

*Application:* We worship, love, honor and exalt Jesus the same way we do the Father and the Holy Spirit.

### **Vs 26: life in Himself, being self-sustaining**

Jesus then affirms another aspect of His equality with God, in that, He has life in Himself. As God, He is self-sustaining. He does not depend on anyone else for His existence.



So in these few verses we note that the Lord Jesus has affirmed equality with the God the Father in terms of (a)working, (b)resurrecting the dead, (c)judging the world (d)honor and (e)being self-sustaining in life. All of these once again point to the deity of Christ.

#### **THE WORKS I DO BEAR WITNESS (JOHN 5:30-36)**

**30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.**

**31 "If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true.**

**32 There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.**

**33 You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.**

**34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.**

**35 He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.**

**36 But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.**

#### **Vs 30-31: Fully submitted**

We see in these verses Jesus describing His submission to the Father during His earthly walk, even though He has just affirmed equality with the Father in terms of working, resurrecting the dead, judging the world and being self-sustaining in life.

His submission to the Father, as He walked as the only begotten Son of God here on earth, can be summed up in these statements:

I do not do anything of myself (vs 30)

I do not seek my own will (vs 30)

I do not bear witness of myself (vs 31)

#### **Vs 32-36: The Father's witness – the works I do**

As He walked in submission to the Father, Jesus pointed out that the Father Himself is bearing witness or attesting to who Jesus is. This is the ultimate, indisputable, unquestionable and true witness authenticating who Jesus is.

Jesus states that while John the Baptist was a true and shining witness, He has a greater witness than John the Baptist. We recall that it was John the Baptist who pointed to



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Jesus and said that this was the Lamb of God (1:29) and this was the Son of God (1:34). The Lord Jesus pointed to the supernatural works of healing, miracles and deliverance, as a greater witness than John the Baptist's testimony, to who He is. *"But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me"* (vs 36). The miraculous works were the Father bearing witness to who Jesus is. The apostles in their preaching also pointed to these miraculous works as a divine attestation to who Jesus is: *"Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know"* (Acts 2:22)

*Application:* How important are miracles, the supernatural works of the Father, to attesting to who Jesus is? Very important. It was the Father's witness. We will see more on this as we progress in the Gospel of John. Since we have been called to bear witness to Jesus today, should we not expect even greater "works of the Father" to manifest to attest to the Gospel message?

#### THE FATHER HIMSELF BEARS WITNESS OF ME (JOHN 5:37-47)

**37 And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.**

**38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.**

**39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.**

**40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.**

**41 "I do not receive honor from men.**

**42 But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you.**

**43 I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.**

**44 How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?**

**45 Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust.**

**46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.**

**47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"**

We would like to highlight two important insights here.

#### The Scriptures testify to Me





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In addition to the works Jesus points to the Scriptures. The people could not hear God's voice, but they could read the Scriptures. And Jesus points out that the Scriptures are testifying to who He is. However, the problem was that even though they read the Scriptures they did not believe the Scriptures.

**Seek the honor that comes from God**

Jesus states so categorically "I do not receive honor from men" (vs 41). However, the Jews want to receive honor from one another, instead of seeking the honor that comes from God.

*Application:* Whose honor are you seeking: honor from men or honor from God? Do you want hear man say "well done!" or do you want to hear God say "well done!"?

**CHAPTER SIX: MY FLESH, MY BLOOD**

**FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND (JOHN 6:1-15)**

- 1 After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias.
- 2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.
- 3 And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples.
- 4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.
- 5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?"
- 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.
- 7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."
- 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him,
- 9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"
- 10 Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.
- 11 And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.
- 12 So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost."
- 13 Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.



**14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."**

**15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.**

Philip did the math calculation and highlighted the lack of finances. Our 200 denarii won't get very much.

Andrew highlighted the lack of resources/provisions. We only have 5 loaves and 2 small fish.

### **Working with Jesus**

Imagine being one of the 12 disciples and you working with Jesus in seeing the miracle happen through your hands and right before your eyes as you distributed the loaves and fish.

*Application:* We are His disciples today. How are we partnering with Him today, to work miraculously to meet the needs of people, in touching and transforming lives around us?

### **Vs 15: He departed by Himself alone**

When men come to make you a celebrity, step away out of the limelight, and into the light of God's presence, all alone. Keep yourself safe in His presence. Do not touch the glory that belongs to Him alone.

### **JESUS WALKS ON WATER (JOHN 6:16-21)**

**16 Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea,**

**17 got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them.**

**18 Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing.**

**19 So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid.**

**20 But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."**

**21 Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.**

The "sea" referred to here is the Sea of Galilee, also known by different names: Lake Gennesaret (Luke 5:1), Sea of Tiberias (John 6:1), Lake of Kinneret (Numbers 34:11). It is a freshwater lake in northern Israel, about 13 km (8 miles) wide, 21 km (13 miles) long. They were likely going from the northeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, likely near



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Bethsaida after feeding the 5000 to Capernaum, a city on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum was Jesus' base of operations in Galilee and home to several disciples (e.g. Peter). They probably rowed 5-6 Km before they hit stormy weather in the middle of the night.

In the middle of a storm, His still comes to us with the assurance that it is He who is with us, do not be afraid.

Vs 21: supernatural transportation. The boat went from being in the middle of the lake to the shore in just a moment.

#### **I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE (JOHN 6:22-59)**

**22 On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone—**

**23 however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks—**

**24 when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.**

**25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?"**

**26 Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.**

**27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."**

**28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"**

**29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."**

**30 Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?**

**31 Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD FROM HEAVEN TO EAT.'"**

**32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.**

**33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."**

**34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."**



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**35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.**

**36 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.**

**37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.**

**38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

**39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.**

**40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."**

**41 The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven."**

**42 And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?"**

**43 Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves.**

**44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.**

**45 It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT BY GOD.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.**

**46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.**

**47 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.**

**48 I am the bread of life.**

**49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead.**

**50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.**

**51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."**

**52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"**

**53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.**

**54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.**

**55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.**

**56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.**

**57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.**



**58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."**

**59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.**

**Vs 24-26: Seeking Jesus for wrong reasons**

The crowds who had been fed came across all the way to Capernaum seeking Jesus. However, Jesus pointed out that the people were seeking Him for the wrong reasons. The signs/miracles were to point to Jesus and who He is. The people did not see that. They just knew that Jesus gave them food to satisfy their hunger, and probably were excited to have more of that.

They were interested in what He could give them for their physical appetite(food), rather than who He was as verified by the signs/miracles.

**Vs 27: Pursue what gives eternal life**

So, Jesus using the moment starts from where they are to point to who He is. To redirect their seeking to seek for Him rather than seek to have their appetites satisfied.

**Vs 28-29: Work the works of God**

Everything begins by believing in the Son of God for who He is. How do we work the works of God? It starts through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Vs 30-31: What sign will you do?**

These verses seem like the crowd is "tempting" Jesus to once again provide bread. Do the same thing again! Can you give us bread just as our father's received manna from heaven, is what they seem to be asking.

**Vs 32-35: The True Bread**

Jesus points to Himself as the True Bread who gives eternal life. Manna was temporary. Jesus is the Bread of Life who gives eternal life.

**Vs 42: He came from heaven?**

The Jews again found fault with what Jesus said. "How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

In John 6:45 Jesus quotes from Isaiah 54:13, that all who are taught by the Father will come to Jesus.

**Vs 44: Unless the Father draw Him**

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."



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How do we balance the Father drawing people, and people making their own independent choice based on free will and free moral agency? We will discuss this further towards the end of this chapter.

**Vs 48-51: I am the bread of life**

A clear statement that the Lord Jesus alone is the Source of eternal life.

Jesus stated that "the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." He was pointing to His work on the Cross. His work on the Cross becomes the Source and basis for our eternal salvation.

**Vs 52-59 Eat my flesh, drink my blood**

However, the Jews were thinking of His literal flesh and hence could not understand what He meant when He said that we must eat His flesh and drink His blood.

As given in this context and explained by Jesus, to eat His flesh and drink His blood is to believe in what He did for us on the cross (vs 51) and to abide in Him (vs 56), that is to live a life in union with Him.

Side note: This has no reference to the Lord's Table or Holy Communion, because Jesus had not instituted that yet. He is clearly referring to the Cross, because He stated, "the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world" (vs 51) and a life lived in union with Him: "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him" (vs 56). Partaking in the Lord's table, which was introduced later and which we practice, is a proclamation of both - our faith in Christ's work on the Cross and a declaration of our union with Him.

**YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE (JOHN 6:60-71)**

**60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"**

**61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?"**

**62 What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?**

**63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.**

**64 But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.**

**65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."**



**66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.**

**67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"**

**68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**

**69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

**70 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?"**

**71 He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.**

#### **Vs 60-62: See the Son of Man ascend**

Jesus foretells His ascension. If they cannot receive what He said about the Cross (His flesh and blood), will they be able to receive even if they saw His ascension?

Vs 62 is another clear indication of the pre-existence of Christ. He would ascend to where He was before.

#### **Vs 63: The Spirit gives life, the flesh profits nothing**

The natural does not profit us. What comes of the Spirit is what brings life. His words are spirit, from and filled with the Spirit and bring us life.

#### **Vs 65-71: Divine sovereignty versus human responsibility or predestination versus free will**

How do we understand these statements

44: No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

65: And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

"no one can come to Me": The Greek phrase implies not just permission, but ability—no one is able to come. "Granted" means given, enabled, or permitted. Jesus is saying that divine initiative is necessary for anyone to come to Him.

God draws, enables, and opens the heart (e.g., Lydia in Acts 16:14).

Humans respond—some believe (John 6:68), others reject (John 6:66).

The Bible presents this paradox held together in balance: Divine sovereignty (John 6:44, 6:65) together with human responsibility (John 3:16, 5:40, 7:17)



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Jesus invites all people (John 7:37), but not all respond. As we see in this passage some walk away (John 6:66). Peter chose to stay and believe (v.68–69).

People are free to make their choice.

God draws them, and in some way influencing their choice towards Him.

His drawing enables them and influences their desire.

Their ability to choose is first enabled and influenced by God.

Yet God does not override their ability to choose in His drawing towards Himself.

Ultimately each person's is exercised based on their free will. Their personal choice matters.

### **SUMMARY**

### **GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL**

### **SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME**

**Minister as the Spirit leads**





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**Gospel of John - Chapters 5 - 6: Book Study**  
**The Works of the Father**  
**Sunday July 27, 2025 - Sermon Outline**

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

**Preparation**

**Life Group Leader:** To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group. All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

**LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture references: *Kindly read John 5-6 before the Life Group meeting*

**INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.



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*Q1, Discuss God's "sovereign work" and God's "promised work" in the backdrop of the healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda.*

*Q2, In John 5:16-29 identify the five areas where the Lord Jesus claimed equality with the Father.*

*Q3, In John 6:51-56 what did we state as the two aspects Jesus pointed to when He spoke about us eating His flesh and drinking His blood.*

*Q4, Based on John 6:44,65-71 discuss the balance of divine sovereignty and human responsibility or predestination and free will.*

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

*1, families to be protected and strengthened*

*2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

*3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.*

Close by thanking God together.



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### USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>

### SERMON OUTLINE

We study John chapters 5-6. In John chapter 5, we learn about God's "sovereign work" and God's "promised work" through the healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda. We identify five areas where the Lord Jesus claimed equality with the Father. We also observe how the Lord Jesus as the Son of God walked in submission to the Father. In John chapter 6 we come to understand the two aspects Jesus pointed to when He spoke about us eating His flesh and drinking His blood. We also discuss the balance of divine sovereignty and human responsibility or predestination and free will. This sermon includes free audio (mp3) and video of this powerful, motivational, expository teaching, free printable PDF sermon outlines, sermon notes and small group study guide with discussion questions and presentation slides. All resources (sermon PDF, sermon MP3, sermon video, sermon presentation) are free for use in personal study, small groups, Bible study prayer groups, local churches, conferences, Bible colleges, etc.

### KEYWORDS



The Gospel of John – Chapters 5 - 6 : Book Study  
The Works of the Father  
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

Gospel of John, John Book Study, John chapters 5 - 6, the Father's Works, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

### REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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