

FLASHPOINTS IN JESUS' MINISTRY — PART 1

John 5:16-30

(John 5:16-30), “And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. {17} But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. {18} Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. {19} 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. {20} For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. {21} For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. {22} For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: {23} That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. {24} Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. {25} Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. {26} For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; {27} And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. {28} Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, {29} And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. {30} I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”



S Some years ago, A **T.V. TALK SHOW** hosted a well-known Christian leader. The liberal T.V. host, aided by his mostly liberal audience, put that godly Christian leader on the hot seat. One member of the audience verbally attacked the Christian leader telling him that if he acted more like Jesus, he wouldn't cause so much hostility and anger. He responded by pointing out that the assumption that Jesus never caused hostility and anger was erroneous. Jesus caused so much anger and hostility in His day that the authorities tried Him and had him crucified.

S **ONE EXAMPLE** of Jesus being treated with hostility is in **JOHN 5**. Jesus healed an impotent man who had been unable to walk for 38 years by telling the man to:

“. . . Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.”

Immediately the man was healed and took up his bed and walked. The text then adds the words:

“. . . And on the same day was the Sabbath.”

RATHER THAN **REJOICING** and **FALLING at Jesus' feet** and **CONFESSING HIM AS LORD OF THE UNIVERSE**, THE RELIGIOUS **AUTHORITIES WERE IRATE** because Jesus had commanded that man to carry his bed on the Sabbath. WE READ:

(V. 16), “And therefore did the Jews **PERSECUTE** Jesus, and **SOUGHT TO SLAY HIM, BECAUSE** he had done these things **ON THE SABBATH DAY.”**

Their intention was to **put an end** to Sabbath breaking by Jesus even if that meant killing Him. **ONE MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THE HOSTILITIES BY THE AUTHORITIES** would have **SUBSIDED** with the passing of time. **THEY DID NOT!** In fact, it grew **more intense** with every day that passed. The religious authorities set out on a **RELENTLESS CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY JESUS**. Though it took several months, **the crucifixion** was the end result of their pursuit.

BEGINNING IN V. 17, and **continuing through** the end of chapter 5, **JESUS EXPLAINED HIS RIGHT and AUTHORITY** to heal the impotent man on the Sabbath and to command him to carry his bed. **JESUS' EXPLANATION** to their hostilities is what this message is all about. **JESUS DID NOT BACK DOWN!** To use an old expression, **JESUS DREW THE BATTLE LINES IN THE SAND** over the Sabbath issue. **HAD JESUS SIMPLY REMAINED SILENT**, He could have avoided the persecution directed at Him. But had Jesus **remained silent**, we would **not have known** who Jesus really was. WE CAN **BE THANKFUL** that Jesus was willing to take the heat and speak the truth in spite of what it cost Him. By going to the cross, Jesus demonstrated that some truths are worth living and dying for.

FIVE FLASHPOINTS IN JESUS' MINISTRY

- I. **JESUS CLAIMED TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD**
- II. **HE CLAIMED TO BE IN PERFECT ACCORD WITH GOD'S WILL**
- III. **HE CLAIMED TO BE THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE**
- IV. **HE CLAIMED TO HAVE POWER OVER THE GRAVE**
- V. **HE CLAIMED TO BE THE FINAL JUDGE OF ALL MANKIND**

I. FLASHPOINT #1 – JESUS CLAIMED TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD

(V. 17), “But Jesus answered them, ‘My Father **WORKETH HITHERTO, AND I WORK.**’”

- S The Greek verb tense is *linear present middle indicative*. According to **Dr. A. T. Robertson** that is to be understood as **"keeps on working until now"** without a break on the Sabbath. The fact God rested from the act of creating on the seventh day **does not imply** that God rested from His works of compassion. **Neither does it imply** God ceases caring for the affairs of world every Sabbath.
(Psa 121:4), “Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall **neither slumber nor sleep.**”
- S **JUST IMAGINE** THE HORROR if God refused to be involved in the affairs of mankind every seventh day of the week because He ceased from all activity. If that were true, then people could not be **SAVED** on the Sabbath, because the **Holy Spirit** would only be available six days a week. If God only worked six days a week, our **PRAYERS** would not be effective on the Sabbath. **If TRAGEDY struck** on the seventh day, we would be stranded without help from God.
- S **JESUS WAS TEACHING THAT EVEN ON THE SABBATH GOD WAS AT WORK governing, preserving and performing acts of mercy and love. AND IN LIKE MANNER, JESUS** did good on the Sabbath by healing that man and telling him to get up and carry his bed.

UP TO THIS POINT, Jesus had only been charged with **Sabbath-breaking**. Jesus’ use of **TWO WORDS** created a further flashpoint. Those two words brought about the more serious charge against Him of **BLASPHEMY**. Those two words were:

(V. 17), “. . . **MY FATHER** worketh hitherto, and I work.”

- S **“MY FATHER”** was **not a term** the authorities ever used to describe their relationship with God. The Jews **accurately understood** those two words to mean that Jesus considered Himself to be equal with God.

(V. 18), “Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, **MAKING HIMSELF EQUAL WITH GOD.**”

- S **MANY FOLKS TODAY ERRONEOUSLY CONCLUDE** that Jesus never claimed to be God. You find people who believe Jesus was just another **prophet**. Some people have concluded that Jesus was just **a good person**. They do not comprehend that Jesus’ enemies understood **Jesus claimed equality with God**.
- S The make up of **this message** will not permit a full examination of the fact that **Jesus is God**. For a more in depth study, refer to the sermon from John 1:1-2, 14 titled *JESUS CHRIST IS GOD*. I do want to share with you in a brief form, **FIVE REASONS TO BELIEVE JESUS WAS GOD**.

#1. SCRIPTURE STATES THAT JESUS IS GOD

- 1) **(John 1:1)**, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **THE WORD WAS GOD.**” (**V. 14**), “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, . . .”
- 2) **(Mat 1:23)**, “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall **CALL HIS NAME EMMANUEL**, which being interpreted is, **GOD WITH US.**”
- 3) **(Phil 2:6)**, “Who, **BEING IN THE FORM OF GOD**, thought it not robbery **TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD:**”

S **“ISOS”** (ee'-sos). The English word **“ISOSCELES”** comes from this Greek word. An **ISOSCELES TRIANGLE** is a triangle with **two equal sides**.

S In all of Scripture **ONLY JESUS** has the designation of being equal with God. That is said of no other person. It is **NOT SAID OF Abraham, Moses, David or Peter**. That is not even said of the **ANGELS GABRIEL or MICHAEL**. Only Jesus is equal with God. But He is equal with God!

#1. **SCRIPTURE CLEARLY STATES THAT JESUS IS GOD**

#2. THE O.T. NAMES FOR JEHOVAH ARE THE N.T. NAMES FOR JESUS

FOUR EXAMPLES:

1). JEHOVAH'S O.T. NAME WAS "LORD"

(**Isa 40:3**), "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the **LORD** (Yeh-ho-vaw'), make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

S The voice crying in the wilderness was John the Baptist. The **LORD** that John the Baptist prepared the way for was Jesus (Mat 3:1-3).

2). JEHOVAH'S O.T. NAME WAS "FIRST & LAST"

(**Isa 44:6**), "Thus saith the **LORD** the King of Israel, and his redeemer the **LORD** of hosts; I AM THE **FIRST**, AND I AM THE **LAST**; and beside me there is no God."

S JESUS SAID
(**Rev 1:17**), "... Fear not; I AM THE **FIRST** AND THE **LAST**:"

S Those who refuse to admit that verse refers to Jesus simply need to read
(**Rev 1:18**), "I am he that **LIVETH**, and **WAS DEAD**; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, . . ."

Ask those who refuse to admit that verse refers to Jesus this question: "**WHEN DID JEHOVAH DIE?**" The answer is Jehovah died on the cross and His name was Jesus. **JESUS IS GOD!**

3). JEHOVAH'S O.T. NAME WAS "SAVIOR"

(**Isa 43:11**), "I, even I, am the **LORD**; and beside me there is no **SAVIOR**."

S JESUS' N.T. NAME IS "SAVIOR"
(**Titus 2:13**), "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and OUR **SAVIOR** JESUS CHRIST;"

S The name **JESUS** means "JEHOVAH IS SALVATION."

4). JEHOVAH'S O.T. NAME WAS "GLORY"

(**Psa 24:10**), "Who is this King of **GLORY**? The **LORD** of hosts, he is the King of **GLORY**."

S JESUS' N.T. NAME IS "GLORY"

(**1 Cor 2:8**), "Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified THE **LORD OF GLORY**."

#1. **SCRIPTURE** CLEARLY STATES THAT JESUS IS GOD

#2. JESUS IS **PRESENTED AS JEHOVAH**

#3. JESUS ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE WORSHIPED

S JESUS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD JEHOVAH GOD ALONE WAS TO BE WORSHIPED.

Jesus quoted the O.T. when tempted by Satan in the wilderness. He said:
(**Mat 4:10**), "... Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve"

S Knowing worship belonged to Jehovah God alone, Jesus still allowed Himself to be worshiped.

1) After Jesus healed THE **LEPER**, JESUS DID NOT PREVENT THE **LEPER** from worshiping Him (Mat 8:2).

2) THE **DISCIPLES** WORSHIPED JESUS after He rescued them from the storm and He did not stop them (Mat 14:33).

3) **AFTER THE RESURRECTION THE DISCIPLES** WORSHIPED JESUS and He did not rebuke them (Matt 28:9). The reason Jesus accepted worship that belonged to God alone is **BECAUSE JESUS WAS GOD.**

#1. **SCRIPTURE** CLEARLY STATES THAT JESUS IS GOD

#2. JESUS IS **PRESENTED AS JEHOVAH**

#3. JESUS **PERMITTED WORSHIP** OF HIMSELF

#4. THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD ARE THE ATTRIBUTES OF JESUS

"Scripture ascribes to Jesus every major name, attribute and title of God."

JOSH MCDOWELL

SIX EXAMPLES:

1). GOD IS **ETERNAL** — JESUS IS **ETERNAL**

(Isa 57:15) (Isa 9:6; Rev 1:8)

- C **GOD (Isa 57:15)**, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth **ETERNITY**, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."
- C **JESUS (Isa 9:6)**, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, **THE EVERLASTING FATHER**, The Prince of Peace."
(Rev 1:8), "I am **ALPHA** and **OMEGA**, the **BEGINNING** and the **ENDING**, saith the Lord, which **IS**, and which **WAS**, and which **IS TO COME**, the Almighty."

2). GOD IS **HOLY** — JESUS IS **HOLY**

(Isa 6:3) (Mark 1:24)

- C **GOD (Isa 6:3)**, "And one cried unto another, and said, **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."
- C **THE DEMONS SAID OF JESUS (Mark 1:24)**, "... Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, **THE HOLY ONE OF GOD**."

3). GOD IS **OMNIPRESENT** — JESUS IS **OMNIPRESENT**

(Psa 139:7-11) (Mat 18:20; Matt 28:20)

- C **GOD (Psa 139:7-11)**, "**WHITHER SHALL I GO FROM THY SPIRIT?** or whither shall I flee **FROM THY PRESENCE?** {8} If I ascend up into **heaven**, thou art there: if I make my bed in **hell**, behold, thou art there. {9} If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in **the uttermost parts of the sea**; {10} Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. {11} If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; **even the night** shall be light about me."
- C **JESUS IN PRAYER (Mat 18:20)**, "For **WHERE TWO OR THREE** are gathered together in my name, **THERE AM I** IN THE MIDST OF THEM." **JESUS IN THE GREAT COMMISSION (Mat 28:20)**, "... Lo, **I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS**, even unto the end of the world..."

4). GOD IS **CREATOR** — JESUS IS **CREATOR**

(Job 38:4) (John 1:3)

- C **GOD (Job 38:4)**, "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?..."
- C **JESUS (John 1:3)**, "**ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM**; and without him was not any thing made that was made." **(John 1:10)**, "He was in the world, and **THE WORLD WAS MADE BY HIM**, and the world knew him not."

5). GOD **SUSTAINS CREATION** — JESUS **SUSTAINS CREATION**

(Psa 75:3) (Heb 1:3; Col 1:17)

- C **GOD (Psa 75:3 NIV)**, "When the earth and all its people quake, **IT IS I WHO HOLD ITS PILLARS FIRM**."
- C **JESUS (Heb 1:3)**, "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and **UPHOLDING ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER**..." **(Col 1:17)**, "And he is before all things, and **BY HIM ALL THINGS CONSIST**."

6). GOD IS **IMMUTABLE** — JESUS IS **IMMUTABLE**

(Mal 3:6; James 1:17) (Heb 13:8)

- C **GOD (Mal 3:6)**, "For I am the LORD, **I CHANGE NOT**;..." **(James 1:17)**, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, **WITH WHOM IS NO VARIABleness, NEITHER SHADOW OF TURNING**."
- C **JESUS (Heb 13:8)**, "Jesus Christ **THE SAME** yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

<<< **THE CONCLUSION: JESUS IS GOD!** >>>

- #1. **SCRIPTURE** CLEARLY STATES THAT JESUS IS GOD
- #2. JESUS IS **PRESENTED AS JEHOVAH**
- #3. JESUS **PERMITTED HIMSELF TO BE WORSHIPED**
- #4. **THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD ARE THE ATTRIBUTES OF JESUS**

#5. JESUS HIMSELF CLAIMED TO BE GOD

FOUR EXAMPLES:

1) **PHILIP SAID TO JESUS**

- C **(John 14:8)**, "... LORD, **SHOW US THE FATHER**, and it sufficeth us."
- C **(John 14:9)**, "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **HE THAT HATH SEEN ME HATH SEEN THE FATHER**; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?"

2) **THE JEWS PICKED UP ROCKS TO STONE JESUS BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:**

- C **(John 10:30)**, "I and my Father are one."
- C Some folks may not understand what Jesus meant that day, but the Jews understood. That is why they picked up stones to kill Him.

3) **JESUS SAID TO THE CRIPPLED MAN LOWERED THROUGH THE ROOF:**

(Mark 2:5), “. . . SON, THY SINS BE FORGIVEN THEE.”

- C **THE SCRIBES SAID (Mark 2:7),** “Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? **WHO CAN FORGIVE SINS BUT GOD ONLY?”**
- C **JESUS SAID (Mark 2:9),** “Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?”

4) **JESUS SAID TO THE JEWS**

(John 8:56-59), “Your father **ABRAHAM REJOICED TO SEE MY DAY:** and he saw it, and was glad. {57} Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art **NOT YET FIFTY YEARS OLD,** and hast thou seen Abraham? {58} **JESUS SAID UNTO THEM,** Verily, verily, I say unto you, **BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM.** {59} Then **TOOK THEY UP STONES TO CAST AT HIM: . . .**”

- C **WE MAY NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WERE SO UPSET, BUT JESUS UNDERSTOOD.**
- C **JESUS WAS CLAIMING TO BE THE GREAT “I AM”**
(Exo 3:14), “And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM:** and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** hath sent me unto you.”

<<< THE CONCLUSION: JESUS IS GOD! >>>

DON'T FORGET **THE CONTEXT** in which Jesus revealed that He was God. He had healed a man on the Sabbath and commanded him to walk and carry his bed. **THE CONCLUSION IS if Jesus is God, He had every right to issue such a command.**

I. **HE CLAIMED TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD**

II. FLASHPOINT #2 – JESUS CLAIMED TO BE IN PERFECT ACCORD WITH GOD’S WILL

(V. 19-20), “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. {20} For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him **greater works** than these, that ye may marvel.”

- S **The healing** of the impotent man by the Pool of Bethesda was **wonderful**, but in comparison to what Jesus was going to do, they had **not seen anything yet.** If that caused them to marvel, then they would stand with open-mouthed wonder as they considered the miracles yet to come.
- S **JESUS TWICE STATED** that what they had seen that day **was the result** the work of the Father.
 - C **(V. 19),** “. . . The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: . . .”
 - C **(V. 30),** “**I can of mine own self do nothing:** as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because **I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father** which hath sent me.”

JESUS WAS TELLING THE JEWS, “**I DO NOT WORK INDEPENDENTLY** from the Father.” Jesus clearly stated that He was not a spiritual **renegade.** He made clear He was in perfect accord with the activity of the Father. He was an example of *like Father, like Son.*

- S **JESUS SAID:**
 - C “The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do.”
 - C “I can of mine own self do nothing.”
 - C “I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father.”

THEREIN LIES **THE SECRET** TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. Those words are **the key** to effectiveness in God’s kingdom.

- C **(John 14:21),** “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”

C **(John 15:5)**, “I am the vine, ye are the branches: **He that abideth in me**, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me **ye can do nothing.**”

A QUESTION WORTH ANSWERING – If Jesus considered the will of the Father for everything He did, is it not important for us to do the same? If **Jesus’ heart desire** was to please the Father, should that not also be our heart’s desire? Should we not also look into the face of our heavenly Father and find His will for our lives?

S WHILE ON **VACATION** we met a pastor and his wife who are **NEW VILLAGE MISSIONARIES**. They have pastored in small community churches for years. One of the questions they were asked before joining this missionary organization was, “Are you taking this church as a stepping stone to a larger church?” He told them, “No.” Had he said yes, he would not have been qualified for New Village Missions. They were looking for someone who knew what they were called to do, not someone that was trying to become a star.

S **RAY STEDMAN SAID ABOUT THESE VERSES**:
“That is probably the most radical statement in the entire Word of God, because it indicates the first step in being a channel of the power of God: a recognition that any effort made to use God’s power for one’s own benefit will finally leave nothing but a hollow, empty feeling; it will never achieve anything. You may mount to the top of whatever heap you aspire to, and gain the admiration and attention of the world, but if you have not found this secret, your life will be unsatisfying and absolutely insipid to you, and of no use to God. “The Son can do nothing of his own accord.” (on John 5:19-20 & 30)

S **DON’T FORGET THE CONTEXT** — Jesus was in perfect accord with the will of the Father, and as a result what Jesus told that impotent man to do on the Sabbath, was in perfect accord with the Father. It is what the Father wanted done. As a result, Jesus had every right to command a man who had been healed to walk and carry his bed on the Sabbath.

FIVE FLASHPOINTS IN JESUS’ MINISTRY

- I. **HE CLAIMED TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD**
- II. **HE CLAIMED TO BE IN PERFECT ACCORD WITH GOD’S WILL**

III. FLASHPOINT #3 – JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE (VV. 21, 24)

(V. 21), “For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.”

S THE WORD “**QUICKEN**” MEANS “**TO MAKE ALIVE.**” In order to make something alive, it has to be dead. **Because all have sinned**, everyone has experienced spiritual death (Rom 3:23; 6:23). The only way anyone can ever experience spiritual life is for **something miraculous** to happen that would **give life**. That miraculous thing that must happen is described in V. 24:

(V. 24), “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that HEARETH MY WORD, and believeth on him that sent me, hath **EVERLASTING LIFE**, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto **LIFE.**”

THERE ARE **TWO KINDS** OF “LIFE” AND JESUS IS THE GIVER OF BOTH:

(1). PHYSICAL LIFE

- C **(JOHN 1:3)**, “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”
- C **(Col 1:16)**, “For by him were all things created, . . . ”

(2). SPIRITUAL LIFE (or eternal life)

S A person can be **physically alive** and **spiritually dead** all at the same time. That person who is spiritually dead **NEEDS THE GIFT OF GOD’S SPIRITUAL LIFE.**

S HOW TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE

#1. BELIEVE IN JESUS

(John 3:36), “He that **believeth** on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

#2. REPENT OF YOUR SIN

(Luke 13:3), “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise perish.”

#3. ASK JESUS TO SAVE YOU

(Rom 10:13), "For whosoever shall **call** upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

(John 1:12), "But as many as **received him**, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

- S Spiritual life **begins the moment** a person receives Jesus as Savior, and that life continues forever throughout eternity. That is why it is called **EVERLASTING LIFE**. That is why Jesus said, "**Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die**" (John 11:26).

JESUS IS THE GIVER OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

(JOHN 1:4), "IN HIM WAS LIFE; . . . "

DON'T FORGET **THE CONTEXT** — since Jesus is the source of all life, He has the right to command a man who has been healed to walk and carry his bed on the Sabbath.

FIVE FLASHPOINTS IN JESUS' MINISTRY

- I. **HE CLAIMED TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD**
- II. **HE CLAIMED TO BE IN PERFECT ACCORD WITH GOD'S WILL**
- III. **HE CLAIMED TO BE THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE**

IV. FLASHPOINT #4 – JESUS CLAIMED TO HAVE POWER OVER THE GRAVE

(V. 25), "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall **LIVE**."

(V. 28-29), "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, {29} And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

- S THE WORD "**MARVEL**" means to be **puzzled** or **astonished**. It is the same word Jesus used in **John 3:7** when He told Nicodemus not to act so **puzzled** about Jesus telling him he had to be born again. As there was something about Jesus' statement to Nicodemus that puzzled him, so there was something astonishing about the thought of Jesus being able to raise the dead back to life.

- S WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, JESUS DID MAKE AN **ASTONISHING CLAIM**. How many people have you ever met that have claimed the power to raise the dead? It is zero for me. If I met someone who claimed that power, I would doubt their trustworthiness. Perhaps that is why the Jews doubted Jesus' words in John 5.

- S Now, **the GOOD NEWS** IS JESUS DID MORE THAN JUST CLAIM HE COULD RAISE THE DEAD, HE GAVE **DEMONSTRATIONS**. HE HAD AT LEAST THREE **DRESS REHEARSALS** to demonstrate the validity of His claim.

- (1) JESUS RAISED **A YOUNG MAN** from the dead who was from the city of Nain (Luke 7:11). Jesus came into contact with **a funeral procession** at the gate of the city of **NAIN**. A widow's only son was dead and was being taken for burial. Jesus went and touched the coffin. He said to the dead man, "**Young man, I say unto thee, Arise**" (Luke 7:14). The dead boy sat up and began to talk.
 - (2) **JAIRUS'** had a 12-year-old **DAUGHTER** who was sick. Jairus went and asked Jesus for help. While he was with Jesus word came that his daughter had already died and there was no need to bother the Master. Jesus went to the aid of the little girl even though she was dead. Here is what Jesus said: **(Mark 5:41)**, "And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, **Talitha cumi**; which is, being interpreted, **Damsel, I say unto thee, arise**."
(Mark 5:42), "And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; . . . "
 - (3) JESUS RAISED **LAZARUS** from the dead in John 11 after he had been dead for four days. When Jesus asked for the stone in front of Lazarus' tomb to be removed, He was warned that Lazarus had been dead so long he would be stinking (John 11:39). The stone was removed anyway and then Jesus spoke three words, "**Lazarus, come forth**." He that had been dead four days came forth bound in grave clothes.
- S Doesn't it make sense, if Jesus was able to raise a little boy, a little girl and a grown man from the dead in His earthly ministry, He would be quite capable of raising the dead in His eternal state? Jesus performed dress rehearsals for what He was going to do wholesale one day.

S THERE ARE **ILLUSTRATIONS** in the Bible of what it will be like on that resurrection day:

- (1) IN THE BOOK OF **EZEKIEL** is an amazing story about a **FALLEN ARMY** (Ezek 37). God commanded Ezekiel to prophesy to that army and tell it to live. All the sudden those dry bones came together. Skin and sinew was miraculously given to them. That dead army rose up and stood on their feet.
- (2) **JESUS' RESURRECTION** is a picture of what will happen on that day. Those religious leaders would soon crucify Jesus in an attempt to prove what Jesus had said was wrong. What they didn't bank on was that Jesus would be raised from the dead. The dead body of Jesus came back to life.

MARK IT DOWN – SOMEDAY there will be **A UNIVERSAL WORLDWIDE RESURRECTION** of both the **just** and **unjust**. The liveliest place to be on the planet at that time will be **the cemetery**. **Every human being** that has ever walked the face of this earth will some day hear the voice of Jesus and will come forth. Those who rejected Jesus and refused to believe in His name will come up alive out of their graves.

WHAT A DAY THAT WILL BE:

(1 Th 4:13-18), "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. {14} For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. {15} For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. {16} For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: {17} Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. {18} Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

DON'T FORGET **THE CONTEXT** — since Jesus has power over the grave, He has the authority to command a man who has been healed to walk and carry his bed on the Sabbath. It makes sense that if Jesus has authority over the grave, then Jesus has authority over the Sabbath.

FIVE FLASHPOINTS IN JESUS' MINISTRY

- I. **HE CLAIMED TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD**
- II. **HE CLAIMED TO BE IN PERFECT ACCORD WITH GOD'S WILL**
- III. **HE CLAIMED TO BE THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE**
- IV. **HE CLAIMED TO HAVE POWER OVER THE GRAVE**

V. FLASHPOINT #4 – JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE FINAL JUDGE OF ALL MANKIND

(V. 22), "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:"

(V. 27), "And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man."

(V. 29), "And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of **damnation**."

S The word of *damnation* is "**KRISIS**" (kree'-sis) meaning "**accusation,**" "**condemnation,**" "**judgment.**"

S **HERE IS WHAT WILL HAPPEN –** There will be two resurrections.

- (1) **THE RESURRECTION OF LIFE** will result in all those who have experienced God's eternal life being raised from the dead. Even the saved will be judged.

C **(Rom 14:10)**, "... We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

C **(2 Cor 5:10)**, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

- (2) **THE RESURRECTION OF "KRISIS"** will result in all those who rejected Jesus as Savior being eternally separated from God

C **(Rev 20:11)**, "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."

C (**Rev 21:15**), “And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.”

S TWO RESURRECTIONS – ONE JUDGE! JESUS WILL BE THE JUDGE.

C (**Acts 17:31**), “. . . He hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness **BY THAT MAN WHOM HE HATH ORDAINED**; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

C (**John 5:22**), “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”

DON'T FORGET **THE CONTEXT** — the men standing there that day were Judging Jesus. They judged Him and concluded He had no authority to command that man to carry his bed on the Sabbath. What they failed to realize was the very Jesus they were judging was the Jesus who would someday judge them.

C (**Ecc1 12:13-14**), “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. {14} **For God shall bring every work into judgment**, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

C (**Heb 9:27**), “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this **the judgment**:”

FOUR INESCAPABLE APPOINTMENTS in life:

1. **LIFE!** (had no choice)
2. **JESUS!** (salvation)
3. **DEATH!** (**Heb 9:27**), “. . . It is appointed unto men once to die. . .”
4. **JUDGMENT!**

HAD WE BEEN THERE THAT DAY, listening to Jesus, would we have had **a hard time swallowing** all He had to say? Jesus did make some very bold claims.

THE GOOD NEWS IS that all Jesus’ claims were validated **BY THE RESURRECTION**.

THE CRUCIFIXION WAS
MAN'S VERDICT.
THE EMPTY TOMB WAS
GOD'S VERDICT.

(**Rom 1:4**), “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection** from the dead:”

- I. **HE CLAIMED TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD**
- II. **HE CLAIMED TO BE IN PERFECT ACCORD WITH GOD'S WILL**
- III. **HE CLAIMED TO BE THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE**
- IV. **HE CLAIMED TO HAVE POWER OVER THE GRAVE**
- V. **HE CLAIMED TO BE THE FINAL JUDGE OF ALL MANKIND**

BILLY GRAHAM says, if Jesus is who He claimed to be, the most important thing we will ever do in life is get to know Him.

DO YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

(**1 John 5:13**), “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **THAT YE MAY KNOW** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

HAVE YOU BELIEVED? REPENTED? ASKED?