

John #26

John 5:9b-18

06.24.07

“My Father Is Working”

Intro: In the Scripture there are many verses devoted to warning those who would choose to follow after Christ of the _____ they will face. Contrary to much of the popular modern day teaching where we are repeatedly told how easy the Christian life is, the Bible actually prepares those who _____ to suffer for being identified with Him. Let us remember this: Jesus said, “A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also _____ you; ...” (Jo. 15:20).

I. Jesus healed the man at the pool of Bethesda _____ telling him to take up his pallet and walk.

A. _____ of religious authority _____ the man because he was carrying his pallet on the Sabbath.

1. The rule the authorities wanted to enforce was found in the traditions of the elders, _____ the _____ of _____.
2. The man resisted their rebuke telling them that he had been _____ to carry it by the one who healed Him.
3. They demanded to know _____ it was who had the well man to transgress their tradition.

B. _____ the man that He might help him appreciate his healing and glorify God by turning from his sin; thus calling him to _____.

1. The man went away and told the authorities who had confronted him earlier that it was _____ who _____ him _____.

C. Because Jesus healed the man on the Sabbath and told him to carry his pallet, the religious authorities true _____ was _____ as they were persecuting Him having murderous thoughts (cf. vs. 18).

1. Jesus answered their persecution by telling them, “My _____ is _____ until now ...” Jesus claimed that God the Father has always been active doing good even until now. That is, the Father has worked every Sabbath since there was a Sabbath, carrying out His providential _____ - without a day off!
2. In the Lord’s answer He also said that He Himself was working, which is to say, “Just as My Father works, so must I for I only do the My Father’s will. And I cannot rest from fulfilling My Father’s work.”
3. Our Lord’s answer enraged them all the more, for they understood that not only was He breaking their Sabbath, but in calling God His own Father, He was claiming to be the Son of God, _____ very God _____. In denying Christ Jesus’ deity, they desired to kill Him.

Let us now make some _____ by observation of this text:

1. Who persecuted Christ?

Answer: The _____ authorities who had a form of godliness, but denied the power thereof!

Conclusion: If we should be persecuted, who might lead the way in persecuting us? Answer: Those who consider themselves and the deceived lost thinks to be religious _____.

2. What did they persecute Jesus for?

Answer: _____ (which is the Father's will) - and moreover, for being identified with the Heavenly Father!

Conclusion: If we should be persecuted, what will they persecute us for?

Answer: Doing good (which is the Father's will) - and moreover, for being _____ with Christ.

1 Peter 2:19-20, "For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you _____ it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently _____ it, this finds favor with God.

3. What was Jesus _____ to the persecution?

Answer: He "... committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept _____ Himself to Him who judges righteously ..." (1 Peter 2:22-23).

Conclusion: if we should be persecuted, how should we respond to those who persecute us?

Answer: If we are followers of Christ, then we _____ Christ wherever He takes us. "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an _____ for you to follow in His steps," (1 Peter 2:21). Also we have this good word: "Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not" (Rom 12:14).

Closing: All who follow Jesus can expect to be persecuted for being identified with Him and working His will. Our Lord has many enemies, and Jesus said, "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. "Remember the word that I said to you, ' _____ is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; ... (John 15:18-20). Dear church, count the cost and _____ found _____ unto death, and He will give you a crown of life for he that endureth unto the end, shall _____. (Cf. Luke 14:28; Rev. 2:10; Mark 13:13)

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