

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 17, 2015

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the eternally existent, unique Son of God who in love and obedience to the Father, lived a life in perfect harmony with God's laws, atoned for the sins of the world on the cross, and rose from the dead to guarantee the resurrection of all humanity.

This Week's Text: John 5:16-29

"It might shake you up to hear this, but at the heart of God's redeeming work is not God's love for you, not God's love for me. Not God's love for the world. Not God's love for sinners. At the heart of redemption is...the Father's love for the Son and the Son's love for the Father. You say, 'Didn't Jesus die because He loved us?' In a secondary sense, but in a primary sense, Jesus died because he loved the Father. 'Didn't the Father send Jesus to the cross because He loved us?' In a secondary sense. In a primary sense He sent the Son to the cross because He loved the Son. You say, 'How am I to understand that?' You're to understand it this way, that the whole purpose of redemption, the whole purpose of creation, the whole purpose of the world, the universe, human history is so that God can collect a bride to give to His Son, a bride that's an expression of His love. The Father will give to the Son a redeemed humanity, collected one day in heaven forever and ever and ever to praise and serve and glorify the Son and always be an everlasting expression of the Father's love." **John**

MacArthur

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- According to verse 16, the religious leaders persecuted Jesus because he healed the paralyzed man at Bethesda. Did Jesus actually violate the 4th commandment? What rule/law did Jesus break, and why?

- Rather than debating the finer points of Sabbath law with the Jewish leaders, how does Jesus answer their objections? What does his identity as the Son of God have to do with the Sabbath?
- How does Jesus' claim as the Son of God differ from other religions or human philosophies (eg. Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslims, etc.)?
- In verse 17, Jesus states that he is equal with God. Yet, in verse 19 he also states that he is subordinate to the Father. Is this a contradiction? How is Jesus ontologically equal with God (equal in essence and being) yet functionally subordinate?
- Explain the significance of Jesus' claim that "*whatever* the Father does, the Son does likewise." Even as Christians (God's children), why can't we make the same claim?
- What is the work that Jesus is accomplishing with the Father (even during the Sabbath)? What is the primary motivation for Jesus' perfect life and his work of cosmic redemption? Reference verse 20.
- Discuss the authority Jesus shares with God the Father to grant life, execute judgement, and receive worship. Explain the tension of the "already" and "not yet" nature of eternal life that we live in as Christians. Who will be resurrected on the day of judgement? As the Son of God why can Jesus demand worship?
- How does this passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?