

# The Communicator

Focus Evangelistic Ministries, Inc. PO Box 498 Danielsville, GA 30633

## Did Jesus Claim to be God?

In John Chapter 5, Jesus ran into some angry Jews who tried to clobber Him for healing a man on the Sabbath. This story is more than an encouraging look at Jesus as a kind healer; Jesus uses the occasion to establish that He is God and Savior.

***“Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.” - John 5:8***

The unbelieving Jews whined, ***“... It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed.” (v. 10)***

Could they be more grave? They would strain at gnats and swallow camels to rob Jesus of His due respect. They blamed the lame man for carrying a burden, and blamed Jesus for doing work. For this, these Sabbath-keepers would kill Jesus if they could find a way.

***“And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.” - John 5:16***

### Is it Wrong for Jesus to Heal on the Sabbath?

No, it is not wrong for Jesus to heal on the Sabbath. Man was not made for the Sabbath; if work needed to be done, it should be done. If an ox could be pulled from a ditch on the Sabbath, could a cripple not be healed? But this goes even deeper. Jesus is not a mere man; He is very God. If man wasn't made for the Sabbath, it is certain that God will not be bound by it either.

Some of the Pharisees even came to understand that no sinner could do the Sabbath miracles of Jesus.

***“Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. - John 9:16***

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Jesus infuriated the would-be killers even more when He answered their accusation.

***“...My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.” - John 5:17***

That did it. He just claimed to be God, right out there in the streets of Jerusalem. They wanted to kill Him even more ***“because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God (John 5:18)***

In the following five verses, Jesus delivered a “*verily verily*” and then rained on His accusers the facts that Jesus is doing nothing by Himself, that God the Father is His partner, and that they will work even greater miracles together in the future that will make people marvel. They will even raise the dead together. Speaking of the dead, His Father has given Jesus all authority to be the Judge of both dead and living. And if you don't honor the Son, you don't honor the Father either. According to Jesus, you will either honor Him as God the savior or you will be in deep trouble when you die.

***“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice...” - John 5:28***

It is chilling that those unbelieving haters of God will be called from their graves by the very voice that called the lame man to **“rise, take up thy bed, and walk.”** Irony and justice will triumph when truth dawns. The One they doubly wished to kill will rise from the dead and one day pronounce the second death on His deniers.

It never had to be that way. They could have believed and gotten a far greater miracle than the lame man received, a forever healing from their own spiritual lameness. Today, the sinner can still be saved by grace. Those who think they are good enough by law will hear their name called by the very One they denied. The choice is being made even now to believe in Jesus as Savior or face Him as Judge.

***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. - John 5:24***



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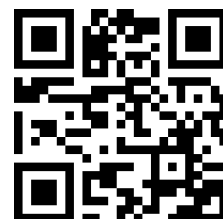


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## ***Our Rock Solid Hope is in God's Word***

This fallen and broken world can be a dark place that discourages us and causes us to lose hope. Some churches have even gone dark, casting aside the Bible. We even disappoint ourselves sometimes. But hope is found in the sweet waters of the Bible. After we have trusted in Jesus for everlasting life, God's Word is the very thing that opens the door for us to participate with God in a spiritual way, on a moment by moment basis. His promises are our hope.

***"...His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust..." - @ Peter 1:3-4*** (From Freddie's new book, soon to be announced)

**Want to Book Freddie to Speak at Your Event? Email to [Freddie@FreddieCoile.org](mailto:Freddie@FreddieCoile.org)**

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## Focus Evangelistic Ministries

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“COMMUNICATING THE TRUTH WITH CLARITY AND SIMPLICITY.”

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