

Gamma – Gospel of John

Book	Gospel of John
Topic	
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A. SABBATH HEALING AND LEGALISM

If you look at the passage it focuses around the pool of Siloam which is basically the Bethesda Pool, it is still around, it is just next to the temple mount and if you go to Israel today you will probably see this place as a historical place and the scene occurs at the Sabbath day. There was a feast of the Jews and this is either the Feast of Tabernacles or the Passover.

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, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades.

The whole issue is that he saw a man and the man was healed during the Sabbath day and the whole issue is that the Jews said that you shouldn't have healed him or he shouldn't have carried up his bed at that particular time. The reason why they said is that because if you look in Genesis

Genesis 2:1-3 (ESV) Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. **2** And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. **3** So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Because God rested, the Sabbath day is where Christians with also Jews do not do any work and for them there are 39 kind of Sabbath kind of prohibitions, like you cannot build, you cannot burn, you can't carry, you can't chainstitch, you can't comb your hair, you can't cook, you can't demolish, you can't dye, you can't erase, you can't extinguish, you can't grind, you can't harvest, you can't knot, you can't mark, you can't plow, you can't reap, you can't sow, so many things and basically you can only walk one thousand feet from the house. That is all you are allowed, more than that you are going to work. So we got these laws and what they were doing is that they are building fences around the laws because they focus on the rules. The trouble is the law is actually the description of God of what he is like. We are

made in the image of God; it shows us what we should really be like if we live like God. So that's what the reason for the law, but in this particular case, if you actually take the description of God and you actually try to obey it in order to be saved it brings a lot more stress and load upon your life.

So he saw him lying down there amongst all the blind, lame, paralyzed people, this man has been there for 38 years. So Jesus doesn't choose easy case, he chose very hard cases. Jesus asked him, do you want to be healed. So out of all the people Jesus goes to this person, Jesus takes the initiative, does he want to be healed. He tries to rouse and challenge him, when a sick man says, well nobody put me in the pool when the water is stirred up, when I am going to go in another steps before me. Now here there is a tradition, when the water ripples it is like an angel coming into the water. So therefore if you get in at that exact time then you get healed. That was the theory.

Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you."

Here we have an example of the relationship between sin and illness. This guy has been lying there for 38 years because his illness is due to his sin. So there is a relationship between sin and sickness. What happens to us when we are sick? Does it mean that we are sinful? Yes, in John 5. There Jesus specifically tells him, better not sin anymore. I heal you this time, next time not so lucky. So he actually warns him that this illness is due to his sickness. Then you have got 1-Cor 11, taking Lord Supper some become sick, they didn't take it properly, they took it frivolously and then some died. So there are two episodes where sin is related to sickness and then there are other episodes where it is not. If we look at John chapter 9, there was a man who was born blind and Jesus healed him. His blindness was there to reveal the glory of God.

Luke 13:1-5 (ESV) There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. **2** And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? **3** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. **4** Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? **5** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

So this is an instance where it doesn't really affect you at all. So what is the solution, sometimes it is due to sin, sometimes it is not due to sin. So when you actually have an illness, this is what James says

James 5:14-16 (ESV) **14** Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has

committed sins, he will be forgiven. **16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed

So healing may be a matter of spiritual discipline, where the church leaders may be involved. So this is a situation when if you are sick you then search and say, do you have sin in your life. James here is talking about body life, you exist in a body and therefore when you actually have that, you actually need other people to minister to you. When they minister to you, they pray with you and you pray with them, it is part of the healing process, you confess your sin to one another, pray for one another that you may be healed. So therefore when you visit somebody in the hospital that's some of the things that you do, it is body life. Christianity is not lived alone; it is lived corporately.

B. JESUS THE SON OF GOD

John 5:15-17 (ESV) The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. **16** And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. **17** But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

Now Jesus has got the choice. He healed the man on the Sabbath Day, he could tell them like in the Book of Mark that it is lawful to heal on a Sabbath Day, because he is the Lord of the Sabbath, or he could say 'my father is working and I am working'. Now when you say that, what happens? So Jesus chose the politically incorrect answer, he chose that answer in order to teach. So therefore in this teaching we now understand Jesus basically status with God. So here the argument is among the theologian at that time, you only got two choices, does God rest on Sunday or does God work on Sunday.

God actually works all the time, so therefore Jesus works, so therefore Jesus equals to God and a fear among the Jews, God is compromised. When you say you are equal to God then you have reduced God to you. People get very-very upset with this. That is because our concept of God and then Jesus, we need to work out. The concept in those days is that they got many Gods. So are we worshipping many Gods. When you actually think about another god, we are thinking of Zeus, Aphrodite, all the other gods.

In our own understanding multiple polytheistic gods are like, for example in Greek mythology it says, right in the beginning there is a big god called Chaos. He then gives birth to 'Gaia' called earth. Then earth gives birth to 'Ouranos' or sky. Then they actually get married and they have children; Titans and Hundred Handers. Hundred handers are creatures with 100 hands and 50 heads. Titans are the second generation gods. One of the main titan is called Kronos. Now what happens was, Kronos was very upset with all the other gods, what he did was he took all the children, hundred handers and all the titans and stuff it back into earth's stomach to prevent them from challenging him. One day Ouranos visited Gaia and Kronos left out, cut off his balls into the earth then the earth and sky

separated and balls became Aphrodite. This is absolutely bizarre kind of Greek mythology, but they actually believe in it. There is also Zeus and another goddess called Matis, these are the first love you ever had and he had many other sexual partners. So gods have sex with each other. If you got Kronos eating his own son, because if he doesn't do that his son will kill him. So when you actually come from a word where there is polytheism, each god has his own domain, each god got his own ideas, each god has his own power, each god is looking for power, each god is independent and the gods are not very much different from us and you can see this kind of idea must be human beings create their own gods and put little names into them. It makes sense. If you actually have a true faith where God communicates what he is like, it is completely different. No human being would have ever thought about this.

So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing

This is the definition of the son of God. He can do nothing on his own. Now in those days and even now the sons follow their fathers. So father and son are identified by having the same profession. They are almost exactly the same. Here is the relationship between God and Jesus Christ. God initiates, sends, commands, commission, he grants and Jesus responds, obeys and performs his father will and he receives authority like a son, but Jesus is God's agent. Then you think Jesus is subordinate to the father, obeys the father, it means Jesus is less than God, but Jesus clarifies the situation. He is more than an agent. He is coeternal and subordinate.

For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. **20** For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. **21** For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. **22** For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, **23** that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

There are four clauses that illustrate Jesus relationship with the father, that tell you that Jesus is equal. He is not autonomous in a sense, is subordinate but he is equal.

Son does what the father does. Whatever the father does, the son does like. So it is not independent, self-determined. He has got perfect identity of will and action. The paradigm is submission; in submission we are liberated. In submission it doesn't mean that Jesus is a robot, he could be like an Avatar, but he is not. There is a separate will.

(ESV) "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." LUKE 22:42

That means Father's and Jesus wills are separate. He has a right to autonomous self-determined action but instead he wrestles and then he allies. So that is liberating to know. So submission is actually wrestling, it is not blind following. Submission is also a decision to trust.

- Submission is wrestling
- Submission is a decision to trust
- Submission is see your life from high vantage point

Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." LUKE 22:42b

Jesus recognized that there is a higher purpose. In the Book of Genesis, you will find that Joseph was born, he was bit of a brat because he had two dreams and in the dreams he was given a dream where all the sheets were there and then all of them bow to him. He got another dream son and the moon and the stars bow down to me. So he had a vision as it were. If he would to believe his dream, one day he would be great, but he went through a very hard time. Joseph was sold as a slave, he worked as a slave. He was unfairly thrown into prison. He had a very horrible life most of his time and then at last minute, he was saved, he became the prime minister of Egypt and he became a great man and he managed to actually save his own family from dying of famine. This was the last scene he speaks to his brothers who are the ones who sold him to slavery or the one to kill him.

Genesis 50:20 (ESV) As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

So in between Joseph understands that although I have a horrible time in prison now, horrible time being kicked around, horrible time being thrown into the pit, but there was an internal purpose and one day actually his brother, sisters and parents all come and bow before him. His dream came true. So therefore submission is okay because the paradigm is you wrestle, you decide to trust because you believe there is a higher plan. That's why Jesus obeys his father.

Here is the Nigerian man which I read recently on the net.

All my life, i dedicated my time, body and soul to doing Yahweh's work, but Yahweh has disappointed me and i don't see why i should continue serving a lifeless god who is no better than a sitting duck. "I attended all church programmes, payed tithe and other church dues, fasted many times that i rarely tasted anything food, read the bible over and over and prayed every day, yet I only meet with disappointments and misfortune like I am cursed. Yahweh has failed me and I would worship him no more. "If it was possible, I would have demanded back all the money I gave those greedy pastors so that I could at least piece together whatever is left of my tattered life and move on. depression and sorrow have taken a strong hold of me. Shame on Yahweh.

What's the deal with him?

He thinks that God has failed him, so life hasn't really turned out. No the issue is controlled, why me, why this, why God. Whenever things don't turn up the way you want it to, that means it implies that we know the future better than God. We know this should be for me, I should grow up, marry this particular person, move to this country, having this particular deal in my life and if it doesn't work out according to that then God has failed me. So the issue is control. Now if God gives you control, you change your mind with your age passing through. So therefore the only person who actually knows the best to be in control is God. Even you cannot be relied upon, depending on your age.

So the son is coequal because the son does whatever the father does, voluntarily, decision to trust and because he knows the father has the best plan. The second thing is coequal because the father loves the son and reveals all to him.

2. Father loves the Son and reveals all to Him

Here you have the father, the father loves the son. How does he show he love the son? The way is total revelation. How does the son love the father? Complete obedience. This is the paradigm in God's head. It is not the same, everybody thinks it is the same, it is not the same. Love is expressed differently, the Father reveals himself to the son, the son obeys the father completely and therefore the son explains the father to us basically. So the marvelous disclosure of the nature and character of God is utterly dependent on the love of the Father for the Son and the love of the Son for the Father. Because there is this total inexhaustible love God reveals himself completely. Gary Chapman wrote a very seminal Christian book many years ago in 1990s of the five languages of love and he wrote that we all show love, but the trouble is that we all have different levels of kinds of love. Some people show love by words of affirmation, others do acts of service, some give gifts, some spend quality time and some with physical touch. We all express love in a different way. So therefore in the God head it is the same. Okay, so God expresses his love to his son by total revelation, the son expresses it by obedience.

Because of this relationship, allows Jesus to be of the perfect mediatorial role. As far as Jesus is of concern, he is totally obedient to the father. He is totally dependent on father; therefore, he is able to represent us. Now as far as the Father to the son is concerned, if the father reveals everything to the son, the son reveals everything to us. So therefore he stands right in the middle. On one hand he stands with the father and on one hand he stands with us. As far as he stands with God, he has total revelation authority and when he stands with us he is totally obedient on our behalf to him. That's why he is the perfect son. That's the beauty of his relationship. So the Father loves the son and shows him of all the things that he is doing and greater works than these that he will do show him, so that you will marvel and his greater works are basically life to the dead and judge mankind.

John 15:9-10 (ESV) As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

Now if you look at this passage it makes sense. We love God by obedience. Obedience is a reflection of love. So you can't have someone who say I am in love with Jesus Christ, I am born again and doesn't obey his commandments and the commandments obeyed not as a function of a load on your back, it is not a load on your back when you actually love someone. The obedience is a function of love. It is not separate from love. If you love someone than you will obey that person. So it is a reflection of it.

3. Father raises the dead and the Son also raises the dead

So raising the dead is a function of the last days. The authority to raise the dead is authority to judge, is a function that is going to happen in the last days. For the Jews there are three keys that only God holds, Rain, Womb and Resurrection from dead. These are three in Jewish ideas and culture, only God holds.

And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive 2 Kings 5:7

So when God raises the dead and gives them life, the son also gives life. It means that the Son is God, it is co-equal with God.

4. Father gives the Son the prerogative of judgment

For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

It means the father doesn't judge anybody. At the end of time, the father God doesn't sit there and judges you, Jesus will judge you. Son may be at one with the Father not only in activity but in honor. As the son judges, therefore all honor is given to the son.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil 2:9-11

The father doesn't obey the son, but the father exalts the son. It is a paradigm shift.

John 5:23 (ESV) that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

So when you actually worship Jesus, when you pray to Jesus and you give honor to Jesus, you don't split it between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Those who honor the son, honor the father.

John 5:24 (ESV) Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Which means the moment you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, he already has passed from death into life. Which means you are now living a life that is actually eternal not only in duration but eternal in quality. It is a quality of life filled with the joy and purpose and meaning that can only come if someone is going to live forever. You have that at the moment you say yes to Jesus Christ and only thing that detracts you from that is when the devil tells you no, just because you sin yesterday or tomorrow, means you are horrible sinner, but Jesus paid for it and that is the matter of faith.

John 5:25-29 (ESV) Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, 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 also to have life in himself. **27** And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. **28** Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice **29** and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

This means one day all will be resurrected, not just Christians. When Christ comes again, all will be resurrected, both Christian and non-Christian. They will come out of tombs with his voice and those who have done good for the resurrection of life and those who have done evil to resurrection of judgment. Does this mean you have salvation by works? When you look at it, it looks apparent.

The work of God is that you believe in whom He has sent, that is the work. so therefore because of your idea of good works is something that you do, not something you believe. So Jesus clarifies those who do good will have resurrection of life, which means these are the ones who just believe in him.

C. Then Nature of Unbelief

Here you have Jesus testimony with signs and wonders then you got John the Baptist with no signs, just expectation and everybody believes in him

35 He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light

That means that Jews tended to believe in John the Baptist, he has no signs but just expectation but they believed in him, but they didn't believe in Jesus, they rejected Jesus.

But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.

39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

So they study the Bible all the time. Rabbi Hillel says, *the more study of the law, the more life, and that if a man gains for himself words of the law he has gained for himself life in the world to come*

That means that the more you read the Bible, the more you have eternal life, but yet they didn't have eternal life,

John 5:41-44 (ESV) I do not receive glory from people. 42 But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God

They were reading their Bibles in order to show each other that how clever they are. They didn't realize that the purpose of the Bible is to point you to Jesus. The same thing here today. If you are not connected to Jesus Christ then what is the point of reading the book. It is a love book, you missed the point. So they read about Jesus but they never connected to Jesus.

Simon Bar Kochba, he was the Messiah in AD132, they said he was like a star of Jacob. A lot of messiah came and they led revolutionary rebellions against the Romans, all of them were crushed.

Why were they successful, when Jesus was not successful?

Because they promise riches, liberation and independence. They promised things that were important in man's eyes. This is the nature of unbelief; they prefer the popular guy.

John 5:45-47 (ESV) Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

So basically what he is saying is that Moses brings the covenant, brings the law. He is taught by the Jews to have interceded for them in heaven. The problem is Moses wrote about Jesus, but you read Moses for just Moses. So that's how he criticizes them.

A lot of us fail to believe because we actually want to love man's glory. There are couple of things:

MARKERS OF LOVING MAN'S GLORY

- You measure your success by what you see and feel in the moment.
- You are motivated and unmotivated in your work, friendships, church, etc., by the praise or lack of praise of those around you.
- Your decisions are often driven by what others will think.
- You are easily discouraged, irritated, or angry when your efforts are not appreciated by others or when others receive credit for something you have done.
- When others praise you, you begin to feel self-confident in your own abilities, rather than relying on the Lord to lead and provide.
- You are more drawn to the type of work and serving opportunities that will be noticed and praised by others.
- You struggle with competitiveness and envy when someone else succeeds or is given praise (even within the body of Christ).
- You measure success with a short-term view, rather than an eternal one.
- You spend less time in the Word and prayer and more time perfecting your craft, skill, job, or reputation.
- You only portray the admirable aspects of your life to those around you (in church, on social media, etc.).
- . You find comfort in making sure others see your pain and shower you with attention because of it.
- Your relationships only go so deep that your struggles are not revealed
- Your emotions and how you feel about yourself are constantly swayed by what you assume others think of you.
- You only share a surface level of your faith out of fear of offending someone or giving the perception that you are weak, strange, or narrow-minded

MARKERS OF LOVING GOD'S GLORY

- You find joy in Christ's name being exalted, even if you receive no attention or praise in the process.
- When others praise you, you feel genuinely humbled, undeserving, and overwhelmed by God's grace in your life.
- You persevere in doing good and find joy in serving Christ, even when it isn't glamorous and goes unappreciated.
- You do not feel threatened or intimidated by those who seem to be more spiritually mature than you, but you humbly desire to learn from others, resting in the knowledge that we are all saved by grace and in different places in our faith.

- You find pleasure in exercising the unique gifts that God has given you, no matter the outcome or level of success it brings. On the other hand, you are able to let these gifts go if the Lord chooses to allow it.
- You are excited for those who do well and compassionate and gracious towards those who fail.
- You do not measure success by the world's terms, but by the truth of Word.
- You are honest about your struggles, failures, and sin, recognizing that you are in the process of sanctification alongside every other Christ follower.
- You do not feel the need to portray a certain type of life on social media and do not need a certain amount of likes, comments, shares, friends, or followers to feel good about yourself.
- You respect church leadership (and others) with the goal of glorifying Christ, rather than needing to be seen and heard.
- You seek to know and pursue what Christ values more than climbing the ladder of success and seeking what the world values.
- You extend grace and forgiveness to those around you, seeking unity in Christ, rather than self-protection and justice.

Jeremiah 2:13 (ESV) for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

When Jesus Christ offers you living water, it wells up. When Jesus offers you his love, his power, his spirit, it just wells up inside, it fills every part of your body, you do not need anything else. If you go after the glory of man, you will be like broken cisterns, leaking, smelly and ugly and nobody wants to be with you.