

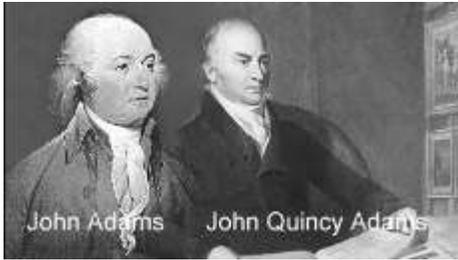
**Second Sunday of End Times – Last Judgment**, November 11, 2018  
*Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Church*

Pastor Charles Heup

**John 5:19-24** (NIV)

Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because **whatever the Father does the Son also does.** 20) For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. 21) For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22) Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted 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. 24) "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:



It's only happened twice in American History that both a Father and a Son have been elected as our president. There was John Adams and Quincy Adams. John Adams was the 2nd U.S. President from 1797-1801 and his son John Quincy Adams was the 6th U.S. President from 1825-1829.

More recently, there was George W. Bush and his father – George Herbert Bush. George Bush was the 41st U.S. President from 1989-1993 and his son George W. Bush was the 43rd U.S. President from 2001-2009.



In both cases, there were some striking similarities between the two men and it seems that the comparisons prove the adage – "like father, like son."

In our text Jesus, the son of God, compares himself to God the Father. The adage, "like Father, like son," applies perfectly in this situation because both are true God.

**Theme:** Like Father, Like Son

1. Alike in the work they do
2. Alike in the love they share
3. Alike in the honor they are due
4. Alike in the Word they speak

Immediately before the events of our text, Jesus had healed a lame man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath Day. The religious authorities confronted Jesus and accused him of breaking the Sabbath Laws. **In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." (18) For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.** (John 5:17-18 NIV)

The authorities acted in hatred and unbelief. They did not see Jesus as God's Son, as the Lord of the Sabbath or as their Savior from sin. They failed to see the similarities between God the Father and his eternal Son, Jesus. They wanted to kill him for calling himself God's equal. In their minds, Jesus was a blasphemer.

Jesus did not contradict the Jews accusation that he was making himself equal to God. Instead, he defended his deity, reaffirming for us that he is true God from all eternity and assuring us of divine blessings as we heard in the Gospel lesson for today. May the Holy Spirit enlighten us through these words to believe that Jesus is indeed true God and the only Savior from sin!

The miracle of healing that Jesus performed provided evidence of his divinity but that evidence was not accepted by the Jewish authorities. They accused him of falsely claiming to be God. So Jesus explained the situation to them: **"Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does..."**

Jesus frequently spoke of the fact that he had come to do his Father's will. On this occasion, Jesus once again made that claim -- telling his accusers that he can do absolutely nothing on his own. He did so emphatically saying, "very truly I tell you." Jesus' words emphasize the perfect unity that exists between himself and his heavenly Father because they are one in essence. The three persons of the Trinity are unable to act independently of each other. They are of one mind, will, and purpose. When Jesus healed the lame on the Sabbath, he was simply doing what the Father wished him to do.

The Father and the Son together with the Holy Spirit have worked together in harmony from eternity. All three persons of the Trinity are described as being active in the creation of the world. Everyday the Triune God sustains and preserves his creation. Jesus' miracle of healing was a vivid illustration of God's concern for his creation. However, God's greatest concern for his creation is shown in his plan of salvation.

God is continually at work. Not only does he uphold all creation by the power of his Word, including the sick and the lame, he also extends his grace to all people through his word. His Spirit works in the hearts of believers as he directs and rules us in his grace. These blessings are worthy of our honor and praise.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit work together in harmony for our salvation. As a part of the divine plan of salvation, the Son humbled himself to become a human being. When Jesus was born, he didn't stop being God. He continued to be God, but he set aside the full use of his Godly power and knowledge. At times however he showed glimpses of that power by performing miracles. This helps us to understand why Jesus would say that he could only do what he sees his Father doing. The things Jesus knew by his divine nature were revealed to his human nature by his Father. By his actions and with his words Jesus revealed God's love. That's why Jesus could also claim, **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** (John 14:9 NIV)

Our text continues: **The Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.** Those greater things include Jesus activities on the last day – calling people forth from the grave and judging all people.

The Father and the Son are alike in the amazing work that they do – Jesus mentions another example of his divine work in our text: **For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.**

The Jews recognized and believed that God is the source of life. Jesus claimed that same power for himself to show his equality with the Father. Jesus also is the source of life. He has power to raise the dead. Three times during his earthly ministry, Jesus displayed that power: He woke Jairus' daughter from the sleep of death. He ended a funeral procession by giving life to a widow's son in Nain. And, he called Lazarus forth from the grave after he had been buried for three days. As the ultimate evidence of his power over death, he rose victoriously from the grave after his crucifixion. On the last day, he will raise all dead.

Jesus only needs to speak and the dead come to life at the sound of his voice. When Jesus speaks of giving life, he is talking about both physical and spiritual life. Still today, the spiritually dead are called to life through his Word. With his Word he calls people to faith and spiritual life. He exercises that power today as his disciples follow his command to go into all the world with the Gospel.

Our text continues: **Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son.** On the Last Day, Jesus will return as judge of all. After calling the dead from their graves, he will welcome believers to the eternal home that he won for them. On that day, Jesus will also condemn those who rejected the forgiveness he won for them.

Like Father, Like Son – alike in the work that they do, alike in the love that they share with each other and for us. That is why Jesus is worthy of the same honor as his Father. The power of judgment was entrusted to the Son **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.**

The Jewish authorities claimed to honor the Father but they rejected the one he sent to be their Savior. Jesus condemned them for their failure to honor him and told them that they were not truly honoring the Father. Jesus words still ring true today and condemn all those who fail to honor him as God. Sadly, his words are often ignored today just as they were by the Jewish authorities in his day. Today people have the tendency to lump all religions together – claiming that since there is only one God that all religions must be essentially the same. They ignore the distinction that Jesus made. He made a distinction between those who honor the Son and those who don't. He's words condemn modern Jews, Muslims and other non-Christian religions because they do not give him divine honor. In spite of their claims, they are worshipping a god that they have created in their own minds not the one who created them and saved them.

This reminds us of the urgency of sharing the Word of God with those who are not Christians. Jesus and his Father are alike in the Word that they speak. They speak the Word of life which has been given to us to use in reaching out to those who do not believe in Jesus as their Savior.

**Our text closes with these words: "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."** Once again, Jesus emphasized the truthfulness of what he is telling the Jews. Very, truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.

Jesus Words are the Words of God. That Word tells us of our heavenly Father and the Savior he sent. That Word has the power to create faith in the Savior God. When faith is created in the heart of a person that person has eternal life. They become spiritually alive and that spiritual life continues from that time into eternity in heaven. Believers have crossed over from death to life. They are no longer dead in their trespasses and sins. They are alive in Christ. That is the life that we enjoy by God's grace. And that is the life that we desire for everyone.

Like Father, like Son – it's not just an adage – it's Gospel truth when it comes to Jesus and his Father. They are alike in their work, in the love they share, in the honor they deserve and in the Word they speak. Glory, praise, and honor to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.