

**Dr. Dave Turner, John, Session 7,  
Controversy: Jesus' Second Trip to Jerusalem –  
John 5:1-47  
Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

**1. Abstract of Turner, John, Session 7, John 5:1-47,  
Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. David Turner's lecture**, the seventh session on the Gospel of John, specifically examines **John chapter 5**. This passage details **Jesus' second trip to Jerusalem** and the ensuing **controversy** sparked by the healing of a lame man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath. **Turner highlights the conflict** with the Pharisees regarding Sabbath observance and Jesus' claim of equality with God. The lecture further explores **Jesus' defense** through the testimony of John the Baptist, his own works, the Father, and ultimately Moses, while also touching on the significance of Old Testament feasts and the concept of inaugurated eschatology within this chapter.

**2. 18 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of  
Dr. Turner, John, Session 7 – Double click icon to play in  
Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL]  
Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament →  
Gospels → John).**



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### 3. Briefing Document: Turner, John, Session 7, John 5:1-47

#### Briefing Document: Dr. David Turner on John 5 - Controversy and Jesus' Authority

**Subject:** Analysis of John 5: Jesus' Second Trip to Jerusalem and the Emerging Controversy

#### Overview:

This briefing document summarizes the key themes and important ideas presented by Dr. David Turner in his seventh session on the Gospel of John, focusing on John chapter 5. This chapter, according to Dr. Turner, is pivotal as it details Jesus' second trip to Jerusalem, his healing of the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath, and the ensuing controversy with the Pharisees. The session explores the nature of this conflict, Jesus' defense of his actions and identity, the multiple witnesses to his divine authority, and the implications of his teachings on the Sabbath and judgment.

#### Main Themes and Important Ideas:

##### 1. The Healing at the Pool of Bethesda and the Sabbath Controversy:

- Jesus heals a lame man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath and instructs him to take up his bed. This action is viewed by the Pharisees as a violation of the Sabbath law, both by Jesus (for commanding it) and the healed man (for carrying his belongings).
- Dr. Turner notes the textual criticism issues surrounding verses 3-4, previously discussed in session 2.
- He contrasts the uncooperative nature of the healed man in John 5 with the sympathetic blind man in John 9, highlighting how the former "rats Jesus out to the Pharisees" and aligns with them.
- Jesus' instruction to the man to "sin no more" is mentioned, contrasting with the explanation of the blind man's condition as being "for no reason other than to bring glory to God."

##### 1. Jesus' Defense and Claim to Equality with God:

- In response to the Sabbath accusation, Jesus states, "**My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.**" (John 5:17, as referenced by Dr. Turner). This is interpreted by the religious leaders as Jesus "calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God" (John 5:18).

- Dr. Turner emphasizes that from the narrator's perspective, Jesus *is* equal to God, aligning with the prologue of John.
- Jesus defends his ministry by stating he speaks and acts only as directed by the Father: "**the Son can do nothing by himself. He can do only what he sees his Father doing because what the Father does, the Son also does.**" (John 5:19, as referenced by Dr. Turner).
- This concept is linked to the rabbinic idea of a *shaliach* (agent), where the agent is considered the same as the one who sent him.

#### 1. Multiple Witnesses to Jesus' Authority:

- Jesus presents five witnesses to his identity and authority:
- **Himself:** Though initially acknowledging their potential skepticism ("if I testify about myself my testimony is not true"), he proceeds to offer further validation.
- **John the Baptist:** Jesus alludes to John's witness (John 5:32-35).
- **His Works:** The miracles Jesus performs are the Father's works and testify that the Father is with him (John 5:36). The healing of the lame man is a direct example.
- **The Father:** Jesus states that the Father has testified concerning him, though they haven't directly seen or heard the Father because they don't believe the one he sent (John 5:37-38).
- **Moses (through the Scriptures):** Jesus asserts that the scriptures they diligently study actually testify about him. He criticizes their misunderstanding, saying, "**If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?**" (John 5:46-47, paraphrased by Dr. Turner).

#### 1. Implications for Understanding Jesus' Nature and Ministry:

- Dr. Turner discusses the theological implications of Jesus' statement that he does nothing on his own initiative, relating it to the doctrine of kenosis and the two natures of Christ. He expresses skepticism towards interpretations that rigidly separate Jesus' divine and human actions, arguing that Jesus attributes everything he does to the Father.

- He highlights John the Baptist's testimony that the Spirit descends and remains on Jesus, suggesting that Jesus operates through the power of the Spirit given without measure.
- Dr. Turner poses the question of whether followers of Jesus should emulate his dependence on the Father's will.

#### 1. The Inaugurated Eschatology of Judgment and Life:

- Jesus declares that "**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.**" (John 5:24, as referenced by Dr. Turner).
- He introduces the concept of "**a time is coming and now is when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.**" (John 5:25). This indicates a present aspect of judgment and the giving of life through belief in Jesus.
- While affirming a future resurrection and judgment ("**a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out...**"), Jesus emphasizes that the present response to him is already determining eternal destinies.
- Dr. Turner introduces the theological concept of "inaugurated eschatology" to describe this reality – the future realities of God's kingdom are already breaking into the present. He recommends G.E. Ladd's "The Presence of the Future" for further understanding.

#### 1. The Significance of Jewish Festivals in John:

- Dr. Turner notes that John chapter 5 marks the beginning of a "festival cycle" in the Gospel, extending through chapter 10.
- He briefly surveys several key festivals and their relevance to John's narrative:
- **Sabbath (Chapter 5):** The immediate context of the controversy.
- **Passover (Chapter 6):** The reason for Jesus' subsequent trip to Jerusalem. John records three Passover visits, supporting the idea of a three-year ministry.
- **Booths/Tabernacles (Chapters 7-9):** The backdrop for further disagreements with Jewish leaders.
- **Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) (Chapter 10):** Briefly mentioned.

- **Pentecost:** Notably absent in John, raising questions about the timing of the Spirit's giving in relation to Acts.

#### 1. Jesus as Lord of the Sabbath:

- Referencing Mark 2:27 and Mark 12/Luke 6, Dr. Turner points out that Jesus is presented as "the Lord of the Sabbath," implying his authority over it and an indirect claim to deity.
- He reiterates Jesus' teaching that "**humans were not made to serve the Sabbath but the Sabbath was created in order to help humanity.**" (Mark 2:27, as referenced by Dr. Turner), suggesting the Pharisees had misinterpreted its purpose and made it a burden.

#### 1. The Centrality of Honoring the Son:

- Dr. Turner concludes by suggesting that the central message of chapter 5 is encapsulated in the statement: "**He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father.**" (John 5:23, paraphrased).
- He draws a parallel with Revelation 4 and 5, where the same worship is given to both the one on the throne and the Lamb (Jesus), further supporting the deity of Christ and his role as the Father's authoritative agent.

#### Key Quotes:

- "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."
- "...calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God."
- "the Son can do nothing by himself. He can do only what he sees his Father doing because what the Father does, the Son also does."
- "If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?"
- "humans were not made to serve the Sabbath but the Sabbath was created in order to help humanity."

**Conclusion:**

Dr. Turner's analysis of John chapter 5 reveals a crucial juncture in Jesus' ministry where his claims to divine authority and his interpretation of Jewish law, particularly the Sabbath, ignite significant controversy with the religious leaders in Jerusalem. The chapter lays the groundwork for ongoing conflict and introduces key theological themes such as Jesus' relationship with the Father, the validity of his witnesses, the nature of judgment, and the purpose of the Law. Dr. Turner emphasizes the importance of understanding the Old Testament context and the concept of inaugurated eschatology to fully grasp the significance of Jesus' words and actions in this pivotal chapter.

## 4. Study Guide: Turner, John, Session 7, John 5:1-47

### Study Guide: John 5 - Controversy in Jerusalem

#### Key Themes:

- **Jesus' Authority and Equality with the Father:** This chapter is pivotal in establishing Jesus' divine claims and his unique relationship with God the Father.
- **Conflict with Religious Leaders:** The healing on the Sabbath sparks significant opposition from the Pharisees, highlighting their differing interpretations of the Law.
- **Witnesses to Jesus:** Jesus defends his identity and ministry by appealing to multiple witnesses, including John the Baptist, his works, the Father, and Moses.
- **Interpretation of Scripture:** The chapter underscores the fundamental disagreement between Jesus and the religious leaders regarding the proper understanding of the Old Testament, particularly the Torah.
- **Realized/Inaugurated Eschatology:** Jesus' statements about present and future judgment introduce the concept that eternal life and judgment are already being experienced in response to him.
- **The Sabbath:** The controversy over the Sabbath reveals Jesus' perspective on its purpose and his authority as its Lord.

#### Quiz:

1. What was the specific act of Jesus that led to the controversy with the Pharisees in John 5?
2. According to the text, what was the Pharisees' primary objection to Jesus' actions on the Sabbath?
3. How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees' accusation that he was breaking the Sabbath, and what was the further implication of his response in their eyes?
4. Identify three of the five witnesses that Jesus presents in John 5 to support his claims about himself.
5. What was Jesus' argument regarding Moses and the scriptures in relation to the religious leaders' disbelief in him?

6. Explain the significance of Jesus' statement, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working" (John 5:17).
7. What is the meaning of the phrase "a time is coming and now is" in John 5:25 in relation to judgment and eternal life?
8. How does the healing of the lame man at the pool of Bethesda contrast with the later healing of the blind man in John 9, as mentioned in the lecture?
9. What does the speaker suggest regarding the way systematic theologians sometimes differentiate between Jesus acting in his "human nature" versus his "divine nature"?
10. According to the speaker, what is the central message of John 5 as it relates to honoring God?

**Quiz Answer Key:**

1. Jesus healed a lame man at the pool of Bethesda and then told him to pick up his bedroll and walk on the Sabbath. This act of carrying his belongings was considered work and a violation of the Sabbath by the Pharisees.
2. The Pharisees objected to Jesus healing on the Sabbath and instructing the man to carry his bedroll, viewing both actions as violations of the Sabbath law. They believed Jesus not only worked himself but also led the healed man to work.
3. Jesus responded by stating that his Father is always working, and therefore he (Jesus) is also working. This statement was viewed by the religious leaders as Jesus making himself equal with God, which they considered blasphemous.
4. Three of the five witnesses Jesus presents are: John the Baptist, his own works (the miracles he performs), and the Father himself (testifying through the works). He also mentions his own testimony and the witness of Moses.
5. Jesus argued that the religious leaders did not truly understand Moses. He stated that the scriptures they diligently studied actually testified about him, and if they had believed Moses, they would have believed Jesus because Moses wrote about him.
6. This statement asserts Jesus' equality and unity with God the Father in their work. It implies that just as God continues to be active in the world, so too is Jesus, even on the Sabbath, highlighting his divine authority.

7. The phrase indicates that while there will be a future judgment, a form of judgment and the experience of eternal life are already present. People's responses to Jesus and his message determine their present spiritual state, which foreshadows their eternal destiny.
8. The lame man in John 5 is portrayed as somewhat unsympathetic and even "rats out" Jesus to the Pharisees, whereas the blind man in John 9 is depicted as a more sympathetic character who sides with Jesus against the religious leaders.
9. The speaker finds it suspicious when theologians attribute certain actions of Jesus solely to his human or divine nature, arguing that Jesus himself attributes everything he does to the Father's leading through the Holy Spirit.
10. The central message is that one cannot truly honor God the Father without also honoring the Son, Jesus Christ. The speaker draws a parallel to Revelation 4 and 5 where the same worship is given to both the one on the throne and the Lamb.

### **Essay Format Questions:**

1. Analyze the reasons behind the escalating conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders in John 5. How do their differing interpretations of the Sabbath and Jesus' claims about his relationship with the Father contribute to this conflict?
2. Discuss the significance of the five witnesses Jesus presents in John 5. How does each witness contribute to his defense of his identity and ministry, and why does he ultimately emphasize the witness of Moses?
3. Explain the concept of inaugurated eschatology as it is presented in John 5. How does Jesus' teaching on present and future judgment challenge the traditional understanding of eschatology, and what are the implications for those who encounter his message?
4. Compare and contrast the portrayal of the Sabbath in the Old Testament and in Jesus' actions and teachings in John 5. How does Jesus redefine the purpose and meaning of the Sabbath, and what does this reveal about his authority?
5. Examine the claims Jesus makes about his relationship with the Father in John 5. How do these claims align with the prologue of John's Gospel, and how do they foreshadow the central theological themes developed throughout the rest of the Gospel?

## Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Sabbath:** The seventh day of the week, observed by Jews as a day of rest from labor, commanded in the Ten Commandments. In John 5, it becomes a point of contention regarding what constitutes permissible activity.
- **Pharisees:** A Jewish religious and social movement during the Second Temple period. They were known for their strict adherence to the Law and their oral traditions, and they often clashed with Jesus over interpretations of religious law.
- **Pool of Bethesda:** A pool in Jerusalem with five porches, where Jesus healed a lame man on the Sabbath in John 5. Its exact location and nature have been debated by archaeologists.
- **Mikveh:** A bath used for ritual immersion in Judaism to achieve ritual purity. The Pool of Bethesda may have served this purpose.
- **Torah:** The first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy), considered the most sacred part of scripture and containing God's law as revealed to Moses.
- **Eschatology:** The branch of theology concerned with the final events of history, or the ultimate destiny of humanity. John 5 presents a nuanced view of eschatology.
- **Realized Eschatology:** The theological view that the blessings and judgments associated with the end times are already present and being experienced in the current age, particularly through the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- **Inaugurated Eschatology:** A balanced perspective on eschatology that recognizes both the present reality of God's kingdom through Christ and the future consummation of that kingdom.
- **Shaliach:** A Jewish legal concept referring to a person who is sent with the authority and power of the one who sent them, essentially acting as their representative. The speaker suggests this concept might illuminate Jesus' relationship with the Father.
- **Kenosis:** A theological term referring to Christ's self-emptying or voluntary limitation of his divine attributes in order to become fully human. The speaker touches on this concept in relation to Jesus' dependence on the Father.

## 5. FAQs on Turner, John, Session 7, John 5:1-47, Biblelearning.org (BeL)

### Frequently Asked Questions: John Chapter 5

**1. What is the central event and the primary conflict presented in John chapter 5?** John chapter 5 centers around Jesus healing a lame man at the Pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath. This act sparks a major controversy with the Jewish religious leaders, primarily the Pharisees, who accuse Jesus of breaking the Sabbath law. Their objection stems from Jesus telling the healed man to pick up his mat and walk, which they interpreted as commanding him to work on the Sabbath.

**2. How does Jesus respond to the accusation of breaking the Sabbath, and what is the significance of his response?** Instead of apologizing, Jesus defends his action by stating, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working" (John 5:17). This declaration was deeply significant because the religious leaders understood it as Jesus claiming equality with God, as only God had the inherent right to work on the Sabbath. This response escalated the conflict and became a catalyst for further accusations and attempts on Jesus' life.

**3. According to Jesus in John 5, how does he relate to God the Father in his ministry?** Jesus repeatedly emphasizes his complete dependence on and unity with the Father. He states that he can do nothing on his own initiative but only what he sees the Father doing (John 5:19). He describes himself as the Father's agent, carrying out the Father's will and speaking his words. He also asserts that he must be honored just as the Father is honored, and that the Father has entrusted all judgment to him (John 5:23). This highlights Jesus' divine authority and his role as the Father's representative.

**4. What are the five witnesses that Jesus presents in John 5 to support his claims?** In response to the challenge of his self-testimony, Jesus presents five witnesses to his identity and authority: **\* John the Baptist:** Jesus refers to John's earlier testimony about him (John 5:32-35). **\* His Works:** The miracles and signs that Jesus performs are evidence of the Father's power working through him and thus testify on his behalf (John 5:36). **\* The Father:** Jesus states that the Father himself has testified concerning him, although the religious leaders have not truly perceived this witness (John 5:37-38). **\* The Scriptures (specifically Moses):** Jesus argues that the very scriptures the religious leaders diligently study actually testify about him, and their failure to believe him reveals a misunderstanding of Moses (John 5:39-47). **\* Jesus Himself:** While acknowledging the

principle that self-testimony alone might not be valid, Jesus' consistent claims and the corroborating testimonies hold weight.

**5. How does Jesus discuss the concept of judgment in John 5, and what is meant by "a time is coming and now is"?** Jesus speaks of two aspects of judgment. He mentions a future resurrection and judgment where those who have done good will rise to life and those who have done evil to condemnation (John 5:28-29). However, he also declares, "a time is coming and now is when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live" (John 5:25). This refers to a present, "realized" or "inaugurated" eschatology. The spiritual dead (those separated from God) are already experiencing judgment based on their response to Jesus' message. Believing in him brings them from death to life, while rejecting him leaves them in condemnation.

**6. What does John chapter 5 reveal about the relationship between Jesus and the Mosaic Law, particularly the Sabbath?** Jesus does not see his actions as being in opposition to the true intent of the Mosaic Law. He implies that the religious leaders' interpretations, particularly regarding the Sabbath, have become burdensome and miss the purpose of the law, which was meant to benefit humanity. Jesus, as the "Lord of the Sabbath" (as described in other Gospels), has the authority to interpret and fulfill its true meaning. He suggests that his healing work is consistent with God's own ongoing work, even on the Sabbath.

**7. How does Dr. Turner interpret Jesus' statement in John 5:19 about the Son doing only what he sees the Father doing, in relation to theological discussions about the nature of Christ?** Dr. Turner interprets this verse as evidence against the idea that Jesus acted independently on his human or divine nature during his earthly ministry. He argues that Jesus attributed everything he did to the Father's leading through the Holy Spirit, emphasizing Jesus' complete reliance on the Father. This perspective suggests that even Jesus' miracles were not performed by tapping into his own divine power independently but were the Father's works done through him as a fully human being empowered by the Spirit.

**8. What is the ultimate significance of John chapter 5 for understanding how one should relate to God?** The chapter concludes by emphasizing the inseparable link between honoring Jesus and honoring God the Father. Jesus states, "Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him" (John 5:23). This highlights the crucial role of Jesus Christ in one's relationship with God. To truly honor and worship God, one must also acknowledge and honor his Son, Jesus, as the Father's authoritative agent and the one through whom eternal life is received.