

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for July 24-25, 2004

"The Initial Investigation"

John 5:10-15

What basic elements of a judicial proceeding do we find in John 5?

The first element of a judicial proceeding that we find in John 5 is the crime and the initial investigation (John 5:1-5).

The alleged crime was that a man who was paralyzed had been healed on the Sabbath.

The initial investigation of the crime was prompted when certain religious Jews encountered the man who had been healed carrying his bed on the Sabbath (John 5:10-15).

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Jesus and these Jews in John 5:10 understood God's command prohibiting work on the Sabbath differently (Exodus 20:9-11; Deuteronomy 5:13-15).

Though the Old Testament demanded that the Jews keep the Sabbath holy by ceasing from all work, it does not give us an exhaustive list of everything that might constitute work.

Jeremiah 17:19-27 specifically restricts Jews from carrying loads through the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath. In other words, Jews could not carry loads for the purpose of commerce.

For a man to pick up his pallet after the person who had healed him commanded him to do so, is a far cry from a Jew choosing to engage in commerce on the Sabbath.

These certain Jews in John 5:10 were willing to make a distinction between what was condemned and what was not condemned on the Sabbath in order to protect their man made laws.

They wanted to protect their man made laws because they believed that personal righteousness had everything to do with the outside and not the inside (Matthew 23:25-28).

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Those who believe that personal righteousness has everything to do with the outside rather than the inside, rob people of their joy (Matthew 23:4).

If we want to truly live our lives in a manner pleasing to Him, then we must get our inside right before we can clearly see how God would have us to live on the outside.

Jesus was attempting to bring this man to the point of true repentance and ultimately to salvation. Jesus was attempting to get this man right on the inside (John 5:14).

In trying to get this man to repent, Jesus reminds him of what he has already suffered because of sin.

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In trying to get this man to repent, Jesus not only reminds him of what he had already suffered but also what he would suffer in eternity if he did not repent.

If we want to truly live our lives in a manner pleasing to Him then we must get our inside right before we can clearly see how God would have us to live on the outside.