

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for August 7-8, 2004

"The Decision to Prosecute"

John 5:16-18

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 5:1-15).

The second element of a judicial proceeding that we find in John 5 is the decision to prosecute (John 5:16-18).

The decision to persecute Christ was first of all based on the belief that He had violated the Sabbath (John 5:16).

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The religious Jews would have viewed the healing of the paralytic in John 5:8-9 as a violation (Matthew 12:9-14).

The religious Jews would have viewed Christ's command to the paralytic to take up his bed and walk in John 5:8 as a violation.

Jesus, in John 5:17, defended Himself against the charge that He had violated the Sabbath.

Calling God "My Father" was not the way Jews usually referred to God. Mostly Jews referred to God as "our Father."

Jesus, after calling God "My Father," reinforced the intimate relationship He enjoys with Him by claiming a prerogative that God alone could claim.

Jesus communicated in John 5:17 that His relationship with God was so close that He was able to work on the Sabbath in the same way God was able to work on the Sabbath.

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The decision to persecute Christ was not only based on the belief that He had violated the Sabbath but that He had made Himself equal with God (John 5:18).

Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my God, shouldst die for me?