

John 5:19-30 (NIV)

¹⁹Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, 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.

²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.

²¹For 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.

²²Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,

²³that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

²⁴"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

²⁵I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

²⁶For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

²⁷And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

²⁸"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice

²⁹and come out--those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

³⁰By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

43-05-02-How to Be Like Jesus

listening, silence, ministry, serving, following, discipleship

John 5:19-30

Jesus calls us to follow Him the way He followed the Father.

INTRODUCTION: (Text as Scripture Reading)

–**WWJD** [*“What Would Jesus Do?”*] reminds us to live by His example.

Yet, because Jesus works *in* and *through us* each day, the question is really, “What Will Jesus Do?” He answered both questions in **John 5**: *What He would do* is listen to His Father; *what He will do* is only what the Father shows Him. That extends the meaning of **WWJD**. To follow His way of *listening to the Father* and of *seeing what the Father shows Him*, we must let **WWJD** direct us to “*Watch What Jesus Does.*”

–**HOM.idea**. He hints at this in **John 10:27**, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” But it’s even more clear in **John 20:21-22**, “Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” How Jesus followed His Father *shows us how to be like Jesus*. He was motivated not by His *own will*, but *by what His Father showed Him—that is, by God’s personally revealed will. By doing this...*

I. Jesus Embodied the Proper Human Dependence on God— v.19, “I tell you the truth, 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.”

A. Did Jesus do *miracles, healings and works of wonder by His own divine power?* (He denies that in this verse and goes on to describe His unique work as Messiah in terms of relational dependence on His Father— v.20, For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.)

B. The Incarnation is incomprehensible: the 2nd Person of the Trinity really became a human Messiah. (While never ceasing to be God, He never lived His human life out of the powers of His own deity.)

C. Each facet of His *special incarnate work* as the divine “*Son of God*” was totally accomplished as an embodied human—“the Son of Man.”

1. In **v.21**, He follows His Father, Who “*raises the dead,*” by giving to believers the resurrection life provided through His own bodily Resurrection— John 11:25, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.”

2. In v.22, 23, “the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father.” But that “honor” is due to Jesus, not as God, but as a human— v.27, “he [the Father] has given him authority to judge *because he is the Son of Man.*”
3. In v.24-29, Jesus carries out the *resurrection* and this “judgment,” but His central focus is on the “eternal life” He gives to believers.
 - a. As “Son of God,” He already had divine “life,” but “the Father... granted [Him]... to have life in himself” as “the [human] Son of Man.”
 - b. His *human body’s death for sins* and *bodily rising from death* gave Him human jurisdiction over salvation— 1 Tim 2:5. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the **man** Christ Jesus.

TRANS: *Human sin gave us death. God’s Son became human to save us from death. Our first parents showed us how to turn from God’s will. Jesus, as a human, showed us how to pay attention to it. As a human Prophet, Priest and King, He restored humanity’s prophetic, priestly and governing destiny in creation. As a human servant, directed by His Father, Jesus not only paid for that restoration, but He told us to live as He did, calling us to follow Him the way He followed the Father.*

- II. Jesus Surrendered Self-Will for God’s Will— v.30**, “By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.”
- A. True honesty in human *self-realization* is being able to recognize, “By myself I can do nothing.” [**Self-made man statue:** a figure carving himself out of a marble block. *Why is that a joke?*] (No one gets here without a *womb* or survives here without *natural* and *social resources*.)
 - B. But as *God’s image-bearers*, none of us can find *our true purpose* in life without discovering and following our Maker’s will for us. (As a loving Creator, God is always a very clear Communicator.)
 1. He gave us logic in a natural world of *logical, dependable laws*, where we can use those laws for *surviving* and even *thriving*.
 2. He spoke to us by *prophets*, and even put His words in writing.
 3. Finally, He became one of us, taught us from human lips, died to ransom us from death, then set up ongoing communication with us by *indwelling us* and *speaking to us through the Holy Spirit*.
 - C. This was His human pattern and His example for us on earth— **John 14:10**, Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?

The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. (This is why He said “I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me”—He had surrendered His human will to His Father’s will.)

CONCLUSION:

–We see this in the other Gospels, but in John’s Gospel it is spelled out with clarity: Jesus totally depended on His Father for the work He was sent here to accomplish, and in doing that work, He watched what His Father showed Him and listened to and followed what His Father said. –Jesus would never have said, “Follow Me,” if He knew we couldn’t do it. So, **He calls us to follow Him the way He followed the Father.** –**Remember:** *ministry* means *service*, and God calls us all to serve. The Holy Spirit Who *led and empowered Jesus in His unique ministry* is the same Holy Spirit given to *lead and empower us* for our *unique callings to serve, wherever He places us and in whatever ways He plans for us.* This requires a positive human response: “Not my will but Yours be done.” –**How to be like Jesus?** It means spending time listening for His voice as He did for His Father’s voice. It means cultivating His attitude of inner, spiritual alertness and His practice of watching to see what His Father was doing, so He could do the same. This is to be like Jesus. –We may be unpracticed in spiritual listening and seeing, but they’re our spiritual birthright, and we’re called to follow Jesus in doing both. So, as *individual believers* and as a *fellowship of Christ-followers*, let’s prayerfully seek, to make His habitual attentiveness to His Father our own habit of WWJD, Watching What Jesus Does—of listening to His voice and following Him in what He shows us to do and tells us to say.