

The Sent One
LENT ONE2026 - Gospel of John
March 1, 2026
John 5:16-28

Sermon Points:

I. Beyond "Spiritual Jargon"

- John 5:16-28 often reads as complex jargon, but it carries a unique power to shatter comfortable, preconceived images of the Father and the Son.
- The passage was a dramatic declaration that marked Jesus as the Sent One, rattling the most fundamental beliefs of the religious leaders.

II. The Divine Mirror (John 5:16-20)

- *“My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”*
- The Relationship: Jesus acknowledges a logical order of submission; as the Son, He does nothing by Himself, but only what He sees the Father doing.
- The Reflection: His work is a perfect reflection of God’s work. This claim suggested that God’s work was being done even on the Sabbath, challenging the law-breaking accusations of the leaders.
- *“the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing”*

III. Delegated Authority (John 5:21-23)

- *Jesus asserts that just as the Father raises the dead and gives life, the Son gives life to whom he is pleased. Judgment is entrusted to the Son so that all may honor the Son as they honor the Father.*
- Life and Judgment: Jesus claims the ultimate power to bring the dead to life—a power that prophets of old only accessed through God’s spirit, but which Jesus claims in its entirety.
- A Declaration of War: By assuming the power to judge, Jesus took on the role of YHWH. To the leaders, this was not a debate but a declaration of war on their understanding of reality.

IV. From Death to Life (John 5:24-27)

- *“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.”*
- Holistic Belief: Unlike modern intellectual "buy-in," the belief Jesus describes is a holistic trust and reliance—clinging onto Him for one's very life.
- Challenging the System: Jesus offers a path to eternal life that bypasses traditional religious worldviews and livelihoods.

V. The Authority Over the Grave (John 5:28)

- *“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice”*
- Unprecedented Boldness: While prophets like Moses and Abraham knew their mortality, Jesus claims His own voice will be heard among the dead. He is at once humankind and more than humankind.

VI. Living the Truth: Three Spiritual Considerations

1. Acknowledge the equality of God and Jesus
 - We must challenge our perceptions. Is God an "angry judge" while Jesus is a "fluffy friend"?
 - If they are one, the compassionate heart of Christ is the same heart that delivered Israel from Egypt.
2. Consider some possible blind spots in your faith
 - Blind Spot 1: Missing God's grace and mercy in the Old Testament.
 - Blind Spot 2: Missing Jesus' righteousness and holy standards in the New Testament. He came with the full authority of the Most High God.
 - *“all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”* (Matthew 28:18).
3. Consider any preconceived notions of bias
 - Are we relying on works-based rituals for acceptance rather than the freedom Jesus offers?.
 - Jesus is more than a personal counselor or "best friend"; He is the path to fully knowing God.

VII. Conclusion: The Goal

- A Transformed Heart
- The ultimate aim is to recognize that access to the Father comes through the Son.
- We are called to worship the Son with the same reverence as the Father, seeing the heart and glory of God in "The Sent One"

