

# John 5:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

## Analysis

The Jews' response confirms they understood Jesus' claim: 'Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.' Calling God 'Father' in the intimate sense Jesus used claimed unique relationship. They correctly understood—Jesus asserted equality with God. This wasn't misunderstanding; Jesus' claim was clear and they rejected it as blasphemy.

## Historical Context

Jews called God 'Father' collectively (Isaiah 64:8), but Jesus' usage implied unique, intimate sonship. The charge of 'making himself equal with God' is precisely what Jesus claimed. John 5:19-47 is Jesus' defense of this claim, not a retraction. The religious leaders understood correctly and rejected deliberately.

## Related Passages

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

---

1. Why was Jesus' claim to unique Sonship with the Father considered blasphemy?
2. How does this verse confirm Jesus' self-understanding as divine?

## Interlinear Text

---

διὰ τοῦτο οὖν μᾶλλον ἐζήτουν αὐτὸν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι  
Therefore G5124 G3767 the more G3123 sought G2212 him G846 G3588 the Jews G2453  
G1223

ἀποκτεῖναι ὅτι οὐ μόνον ἔλυεν τὸ σάββατον ἀλλὰ  
to kill because not only had broken G3588 the sabbath but G235  
G615 G3754 G3756 G3440 G3089 G4521 G235

καὶ πατέρα ἕδιον ἔλεγεν τὸν θεῷ ἕσον ἔαυτὸν ποιῶν  
also Father was his said G3588 that God equal G2470 himself making G4160  
G2532 G3962 G2398 G3004 G2316 G1438 G4160

τῷ θεῷ  
G3588 that God G2316

## Additional Cross-References

---

**John 10:33** (References God): The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

**John 10:30** (Parallel theme): I and my Father are one.

**John 19:7** (References God): The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

**John 5:23** (Parallel theme): That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

**John 8:58** (Parallel theme): Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

**John 14:23** (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

**Philippians 2:6** (References God): Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

**Revelation 22:1** (References God): And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

**Zechariah 13:7** (Parallel theme): Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

**John 8:54** (References God): Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: