

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

Psalms 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	sought	him	G3588	the Jews	
G1223			G3123	G2212	G846		G2453	
ἀποκτεῖναι	ὅτι	οὐ	μόνον	ἔλυεν	τὸ	σάββατον	ἀλλὰ	
to kill	because	not	only	had broken	G3588	the sabbath	but	
G615	G3754	G3756	G3440	G3089		G4521	G235	
καὶ	πατέρα	ἴδιον	ἔλεγεν	τὸν	θεῷ	ἴσον	ἐαυτὸν	ποιῶν
also	Father	was his	said	G3588	that God	equal	himself	making
G2532	G3962	G2398	G3004		G2316	G2470	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: