

John 5:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Analysis

'I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.' Jesus reaffirms dependence on the Father—not inadequacy but perfect alignment. His judgment is just because it reflects the Father's will, not personal agenda. Independence from the Father would mean injustice; dependence ensures righteousness. The Son's submission guarantees judgment's justice.

Historical Context

This returns to verse 19's theme of Father-Son unity. Far from claiming autonomous power, Jesus emphasizes His work as expressing the Father's will. This subordination in economy (role) doesn't imply subordination in essence (nature). The Son's willing submission demonstrates love, not inferiority.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does seeking the Father's will ensure just judgment?
2. What does Jesus' dependence on the Father teach about doing God's will?

Interlinear Text

οὐ	δύναμαι	ἐγὼ	ποιεῖν	ἀπ'	ἐμαυτοῦ	οὐδέν·	καθὼς	
not	can	I	do	of	mine own self	G3762	as	
G3756	G1410	G1473	G4160	G575	G1683		G2531	
ἀκούω	κρίνω	καὶ	ἡ	κρίσις	ἡ	ἐμὸν	δικαία	ἐστίν
I hear	I judge	and	G3588	judgment	G3588	mine own	just	is
G191	G2919	G2532		G2920		G1699	G1342	G2076
ὅτι	οὐ	ζητῶ	τὸ	θέλημα	τὸ	ἐμὸν	ἀλλὰ	τὸ
because	not	I seek	G3588	the will	G3588	mine own	but	G3588
G3754	G3756	G2212		G2307		G1699	G235	
θέλημα	τοῦ	πέμψαντός	με	πατρός				
the will	G3588	hath sent	me	of the Father				
G2307		G3992	G3165	G3962				

Additional Cross-References

John 6:38 (Parallel theme): For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

John 5:19 (Parallel theme): Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

John 4:34 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 14:10 (Parallel theme): Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Matthew 26:39 (Parallel theme): And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

John 8:28 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

Romans 15:3 (Parallel theme): For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

John 8:42 (Parallel theme): Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

John 8:50 (Judgment): And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.

Psalms 96:13 (Righteousness): Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.