



### Discussion Questions Set #1

“So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.” (John 5:16-18)

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness”. (Lamentations 2:22-23)

“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings” (Hosea 6:6)

“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath”. (Mark 2:27)

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Exodus 20:8-11)

1. Discuss your understanding of the importance of Sabbath adherence. Think about the purpose of the Sabbath laws and the intent of these laws.
2. As discussed in sermon, works of mercy and life-giving/sustaining seem not to be prohibited on the Sabbath from Christ's perspective. How does this inform our own Sabbath keeping?
3. Discuss these two exceptions to Sabbath-work - “*pikuah nephesh*” (to save a life) and “*tzar baalei hayim*” (to prevent suffering). With both of these ideas well entrenched in rabbinic thought at the time of Christ, why do you think the religious leaders of Israel did not default to these in light of Christ's healing of the paralytic man?
4. Discuss the significance of this healing taking place by the pool of Bethsaida – “the house of mercy/grace”. What is it significant that Jesus might use this incident to reveal His identity as the dwelling place of God's grace and mercy?
5. Do you believe there is a link between mercy and holiness? What might that link be?

### Discussion Questions Set #2

“Very truly I tell you, 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. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.” (John 5:19-20)

“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” (Matthew 11:27)

1. Note the interdependence of Father and Son expressed in this statement. If we understand Christ's divinity properly, though He was fully God, He cannot operate without the Father and only mimics the Father's actions. Why is all of this significant?
2. In His love, the Father shows the Son all He does according to our passage. Why might this be an important statement for the follower of Jesus in light of Matthew 11:27?

### Discussion Questions Set #3

“For 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. Moreover, 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. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.” (John 5:21-23)

1. Think of the two works discussed in this passage - life-giving and judgment. Why is it significant that Christ claims both of these works? Remember that this was said prior to Christ's raising from the dead of the widow's son at Nain, Jairus' daughter or Lazarus. How does this affect us as those who have trusted in Christ?
2. What is the significance of the phrase “the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it”? How does this affect our understanding of salvation and eternal life?
3. What do you think it means to honour the Son in a practical sense?