

AN OFFENSIVE DEFENSE

JUNE 30, 2019

THE POOL OF BETHESDA—HOUSE OF MERCY

One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. John 5:5-9

THE CRIME: BETHESDA IS CLOSED ON THE SABBATH

Because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. John 5:16

“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.” Exodus 20:9-10

THE PUNISHMENT: UNDER PENALTY OF DEATH

“Whoever does any work on it is to be put to death. Do not light a fire in any of your dwellings on the Sabbath day.” Exodus 35:2-3

JESUS’ DEFENSE: MY DAD OWNS THE COMPANY

In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” John 5:17

THE DEFENSE WAS WORSE THAN THE OFFENSE

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 5:18

THE WITNESS LIST

JOHN THE BAPTIST

“You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth... truth... John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.” John 5:33,35

THE WORK

“I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.” John 5:36

THE FATHER

“And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent.” John 5:37-38

THE SCRIPTURES

“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” John 5:39

THE CROSS EXAMINATION OF THE CRITICS

“I do not accept glory from human beings, but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?” John 5:41-44

MOSES

“But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?” John 5:45-47

JESUS MAKES HIS FATHER KNOWN THROUGH THE WORK HE DOES BECAUSE THE WORK IS HIS FATHER’S DOING

Jesus said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision...you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man’s whole body on the Sabbath?” John 7:21-23

THE HEALING OF THE WHOLE PERSON: LIFE & GLORY