

## Irony

### i. **scripture intro:** John 5:16-30

- Series: That We Might Know Him
- Here Jesus gives us more insight into God

### ii. **scripture reading:** John 5:1-15

### iii. **prayer**

### iv. **introduction:**

- **Irony**
  - *Oxford English Dictionary*: The expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect
  - A state of affairs or an event that seems deliberately contrary to what one expects and is often amusing as a result.
- Irony is what is going on in this passage
- Not always amusing
- It can be downright deadly
- **Dead Poet's Society (1989): One of my all time favorites**
  - Mr. Keating hired to teach at a boys prep school
  - Methods unconventional
  - Didn't teach according to traditions
  - Taught his students how to think
  - In so doing taught them how to live
  - Irony:
    - § Unconventional methods really taught
    - § Traditional methods boring and irrelevant
    - § Students loved Mr. Keating's class
  - Faculty suspicious, jealous, to persecution
  - John Keating: "I thought the purpose of education was to learn to think for yourself. "
  - Nolan: "At these boys age? Not on your life!"
  - Eventually fired and blamed for the suicide of one of the students
- This is what's going on in today's passage
- Verse 18: **IRONY**
  - Jesus seeking to give life
  - Jews seeking to take life
- Task before us is to see the irony of the Jews here
- To see their erroneous beliefs and apply it to our lives

## 1. **Irony 1: Recognizing the Kingdom of God**

### A. **Explanation:** What was the problem of the Jews here?

1. Grumpy because Jesus healed a man and commanded him to

work on the Sabbath

- a. Vv 9-10 (last week)
  - b. So intent of keeping the law that they missed the miracle
  - c. Grumpy because Jesus was "destroying" the Sabbath
2. Mad because Jesus claimed equality with God
    - a. Goes on to say that he does things only God can do:
      - V 21: "Gives life"
      - V 22: "Renders judgment"
    - a. Blasphemy in their book
    - b. King of Tyre: Ez. 28:6-10
    - c. Such a claim deserved death
  3. Irony here is that the Jews didn't recognize the Kingdom of God
    - a. In their anger
      - Jesus didn't fit their mold of what the Messiah ought to be
      - They made a judgement and sought to condemn
      - They sought to play God

## B. **Application**

1. Easy to read this and say, "I can't relate to this"
  - a. I know Jesus is God
  - b. I have no problem with Jesus healing someone on the Sabbath
2. Before congratulating ourselves, we are still guilty of living in irony
3. We, too, fail to recognize the Kingdom of God
4. We set selves up as God, taking on the tasks of judging/condemning
  - When asked about negative people in the church, Mark Driscoll compared them to referees — *they like to wear their striped shirt, blow their whistle, and call fouls, but they never really play in the game. He said that they care about things that nobody else does, not even God.*
5. What do you care about?
  - a. Do you care about the things God cares about?
  - b. Do you love the things God loves?
6. What are the things God loves?
  - a. God loves the things that he's doing (v 17)
  - b. What is God doing? (v. 19) Same thing Jesus is doing
  - c. What is Jesus doing? (v 16)
  - d. Healing: Giving freedom and life
7. Rom. 14:17: For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit
8. Can be in only one of two positions
  - a. Either like the Jews here:
    - Seeing self as God
    - Demanding worship from others

- Taking on power to condemn
- b. Or like Jesus
  - Keeping eyes on the Father
  - Concerned about giving life

C. **Illustration:** What if we had guns that gave life? (we do: the Gospel!)

## 2. **Irony 2: Recognizing when eternal life begins**

### A. **Explanation**

1. Vv 24-25 (**READ**)
2. We tend to think eternal life begins at death
3. It doesn't; it begins now!
4. We live in the "now and not yet"
  - a. 2 resurrections here
  - b. Spiritual (v 25)
  - c. Physical (vv 28-29)
5. Like the sanctuary today

### B. **Illustration:** Ezekiel 37 (**READ**)

### C. **Application:** Rom. 4:17-25

1. We have crossed over
2. We serve a God who gives life to the dead
3. Are you living? Are you dying?

## 3. **Irony 3: Recognizing the providence of God**

### A. **Explanation**

1. Let's take a step back (objective view)
2. Persecution ramps up for Jesus
3. We know the rest of the story (Jesus condemned/crucified)
4. But what if the Jews had gotten it?
5. What if they had all believed and worshiped him?
6. It would naturally follow that they would not have crucified him
7. If Christ had not been crucified, there would be no atonement
8. If no atonement, no salvation
9. We would have remained in a state of damnation

### B. **Application**

1. All of this is to say that the struggles we go through,  
the pain we experience,  
the hurts we receive  
are all part of God's providence
2. Jesus, knowing all that was about to unfold, trusted himself to the Father (v 30)

### C. **Illustration**

1. The Reason for God: Tim Keller: pg 31-32
2. Keller's nightmare