

Our context today is that Jesus is being accused of violating the Sabbath because He healed a man who was ill for 38 years. In response, Jesus essentially says because His Father works on the Sabbath (i.e., creating life and sustaining the universe), He works. Consequently, the Jews try to kill him because of blasphemy.

Today's gospel feels like a courtroom where Jesus must defend himself on these two charges. Jesus responds with a lengthy discourse defending Himself that He is the Son of the Father.

Just as His Father raises the dead and gives life on the Sabbath, so Jesus gave life back to the paralyzed man on the Sabbath. In other words, Jesus is not the Father's competitor, but an obedient son. And as an obedient son, He receives everything from the Father, including the divine power over life, death, and judgment.

We can think of it this way. When a king sends an envoy or a delegate, he empowers the delegate to act on his behalf. In some sense, the delegate is the "face" of the king. He has the power to act on behalf of the king such as making judgments and rewarding obedience. To insult or ignore the delegate is to insult the king.

Jesus is the delegate (i.e., eternal Son) of the Father. He is sent by the Father and as a Son, He obediently carries out the Father's work. Our response to the Son is our response to the Father who sent Him. Thus, Jesus says, *"Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."*

For us today, sometimes we hear the long discourses by Jesus in John's gospel and can get a little lost. This is particularly the case when He speaks about His relationship with the Father. It can be technical and difficult to understand. However, it is extremely important.

Keep in mind that we were created from the Trinity and *for* the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). In our doxology after each Eucharistic Prayer, we offer our prayer to the Father by saying, "Through Him, with Him, and in Him, O God, Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is your, forever and ever."

The Trinity is the **source** of our life and the **goal** of our life. By "hearing" Jesus' word (i.e., yielding to it), we possess life now and for all eternity, life that is in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.