

John 5:16-18

John 5:16 – *“And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.”*

- A. Jesus was really persecuted because He wasn’t “one of them” (**John 15:18-21**).
 - 1. The wicked plot against the just (**Psalms 37:12**).
 - 2. Jesus had such a polarizing [divisive] presence that He literally drove the erring to madness (**Luke 6:6-11**) and wrath (**Luke 4:16-30**).
 - 3. The disciples continued in the same manner of being hated for the sake of the truth (**John 17:14** and **Acts 5:28-33**).
 - 4. We should expect to be treated as poorly as our Savior was (**Matthew 5:10-12**, **Acts 14:22**, and **II Timothy 3:12**).
- B. Were the Jews defending the Law of the Sabbath or were they just out to “get Jesus” (**Luke 19:47-48**)?
 - 1. Some just hate the righteous (**Psalms 34:21**, **Proverbs 29:27**, **John 7:7**, **Acts 7:51-54**, **Galatians 4:16**, and **I Thessalonians 2:15-16**).
 - 2. Some persecute the righteous and think they’re doing the right thing (**John 16:1-3** and **Acts 26:9-19**; cf. **I Timothy 1:12-15**).

John 5:17 – *“But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.”*

- A. Jesus is focused on His Father’s will (**John 6:38**).
 - 1. Jesus is an example of obedience (**Hebrews 5:8-9**).
 - 2. Jesus had a plan to follow (**Matthew 3:13-17** and **Acts 3:18**).
- B. Jesus was working (**John 9:4**).
 - 1. Jesus was focused on using His time aright (**John 7:8** and **John 12:35**; cf. **Ephesians 5:15-17**).
 - 2. We too should be busy working (**I Corinthians 15:58** and **Titus 3:8**).

John 5:18 – *“Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”*

- A. Jesus is God (**Matthew 1:23**, **John 1:1-5**, **John 20:26-29**, **Acts 20:28**, **Romans 9:1-5**, **I Timothy 3:16**, **Titus 2:13**, **Hebrews 1:8-9**, and **I John 5:20**).
 - 1. Again, they have another EXCUSE for their desire to murder Jesus (**John 8:37**).
 - 2. Truth is, they hated the heir to the throne (**Matthew 21:33-45**).
- B. The Jews understood that Jesus was saying He was deity (**John 10:30-33**).
 - 1. What they missed was that while Jesus is deity He was acting as a servant to save them (**Philippians 2:4-11**).
 - 2. Many today cannot see what Jesus was saying and they shall eternally be lost because of that (**John 8:23-24**).