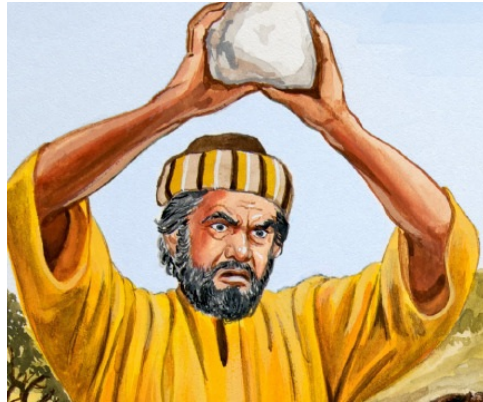


## Kill the Blasphemer!

John 5:17-18; 8:56-59; 10:30-33; 19:7



In the Law of Moses blasphemers were to be put to death (Lev. 24:16). One form of blasphemy was for a mere man to claim to be God.

1) **Read John 5:17-18.** Jesus called God His Father, thus claiming to be the Son of God. The Jews fully understood the significance of this claim. By stating that God was His Father, Jesus was claiming to be **equal with God**. To the Jewish mind, this claim of deity was worthy of death; thus they sought to kill Him.

2) **Read John 8:56-59.** Jesus said to the Jews, “Abraham rejoiced to see My day.” The Jews, who knew Jesus was less than 50 years old, understood Jesus to be claiming to exist at the time of Abraham, about two thousand years earlier. The Lord further cemented this claim by saying, “**Before Abraham was, I am.**” Not only did Jesus claim to exist *before* Abraham, but He used the words “**I AM,**” which was a sacred title of God (Exod. 3:14). Hence, the Jews wanted to stone Him.

3. **Read John 10:30-33.** Jesus made this amazing claim: “I and My Father are one.” To claim to be one with the Father was understood by the Jews as a blasphemous statement, so they took up stones once again, believing He deserved death. These Jews fully understood Jesus’ words, “...because that Thou, being a man, **makest Thyself God.**” He claimed to be God!

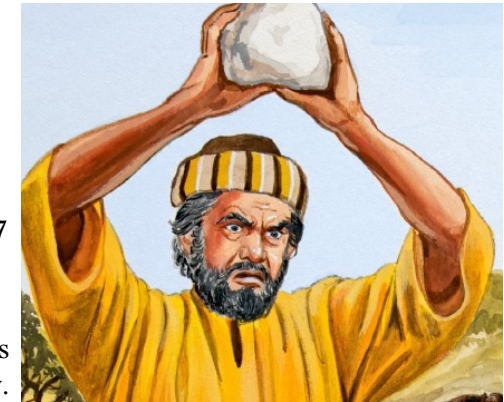
4. **Read John 19:7.** The Jews tried to explain to Pilate why they thought Jesus should die: “...because He made Himself [claimed to be] the Son of God” (compare John 5:18).

If Jesus had been a mere man, or if Jesus had been less than God, then these claims would indeed have been blasphemy. ***Yet our Saviour’s claims were true!*** He was indeed equal with God, one with God, deity in the flesh!

For more articles see, <https://middletownbiblechurch.org/inserts/index.htm>

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