

## Empty

Read John 5:16-30

The Jewish leaders of Jesus' day were shocked and appalled by the way He spoke of God as His Father. They were ready to kill Him for that alone, for "*making Himself equal with God*" (John 5:18). But actually Jesus was exalting the Father and humbling Himself. He had made Himself completely empty, completely dependent on the Father for everything He said and did.

We often picture the earthly Jesus as a kind of superman, with unlimited power flowing from His fingertips. But listen to what the Bible says about Him:

*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant. (Philippians 2:5-7, NASB).*

Listen to what Jesus says about Himself:

*"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does...By myself I can do nothing."* (John 5:19, 30, NIV)

*"These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."* (John 14:24, NIV)

It wasn't Jesus' own power that made Him what He was. He had emptied Himself of all His power and glory. Jesus made Himself dependent on His Father, constantly and completely, for every word and every action. When He spoke or acted, it was at His Father's will and by His Father's direct provision.

Jesus was what He was by faith. His strength lay not in unique abilities but in His unique relationship with the Father. He was the embodiment of the Father's will for us expressed in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness*" (NIV).

Jesus made himself an open vessel for the Father, holy and yielded. His weakness was His great strength. His emptiness was the secret to His constant sufficiency. His power was His complete and constant dependence on the Father.