



LIFE in the SON (John 5:19-47)

How can you *KNOW* that you have eternal life? Many, even religious folks, have a 'wait & see' approach, claiming there is no way to know *NOW*. Today we discover another audacious claim from Jesus: eternal life begins before this life ends.

Jesus made the audacious claim that He was **the Son of God**, and it's that claim that got Him killed. Last week we concluded with why the Sanhedrin (Jewish Supreme Court) sent Jesus to Pilate:

John 19:7 (CSB) ⁷ "We have a law," the Jews replied to him, "and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself **the Son of God**."

A Blasphemous Claim

John 5:17-18 (CSB) ¹⁷ Jesus responded to them, "**My Father is still working, and I am working also.**" ¹⁸ This is why the Jews began trying all the more to kill him: Not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, **making himself equal to God**.

The Father-Son Relationship

John 5:19-21 (CSB) ¹⁹ Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, the Son is not able to do anything on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing. **For whatever the Father does, the Son likewise does these things.**" ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing, and he will show him greater works than these so that you will be amazed. ²¹ And just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son also gives life to whom he wants.

So Jesus claims that He is a reflection of the Father - Jesus does **what He sees the Father doing**. This is more than just a claim of intellectual knowledge of the Father, but a unique claim of intimate relationship with **the Father** who **loves** (Gr. *phileō*)¹ **the Son**, and the proof will be seen in **greater works** yet to come. One of the greater works is the claim that he **gives life to whom he wants...just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life**. So just as the Father resurrects and give eternal life, so can the Son.

John 5:22-23 (CSB) ²² The Father, in fact, judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ so **that all people may honor the Son just as they honor the Father**. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

Jesus claims He has **been given all judgment** and will receive the same **honor** as **the Father**. Jesus then confronts these unbelieving Jews: **Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him**.

Think about that for a moment. Can you imagine another person saying these words?: "*If you don't honor ME, then you dishonor God who sent me. You should honor ME like you honor the Father.*"

* This statement by Jesus is as blasphemous as any ever uttered...unless it's true. And if it's true, then Jesus is more than just a good man.

Isaiah 42:8 (LEB) ⁸ I *am* Yahweh; that *is* my name, and **I do not give my glory to another**, nor my praise to the idols.

Philippians 2:9-11 (CSB) ⁹ For this reason [Jesus obedience to die on the cross] God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— in heaven and on earth and under the earth— ¹¹ and **every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

* The term for **Lord** is used for God in the Septuagint (LXX - Greek translation of Hebrew Scriptures).

Here it is clear that **God the Father shares His glory with Jesus**. Jesus is no false idol or some separate God. He is God, the Son.

YOUR NOTES

Eternal Life Starts...When?

John 5:24-25 (CSB) ²⁴ "Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me **has eternal life** and will not come under judgment but **has passed from death to life**. ²⁵ "Truly I tell you, an hour is coming, **and is now here**, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

This incredible claim is more than just a future promise; it's a promise for TODAY! Whoever trusts in Jesus **has eternal life & has passed from death to life!**

➡ Do you have hope for your future? Are you confident that you can stand before clean before your Creator?

BIG TRUTH: ETERNAL LIFE begins before THIS LIFE ends

Jesus claimed that the time was **now here**, when He would bring the spiritually dead back to life. Those who follow Jesus **HAVE passed from death to life**; because we bask in the reality that we **will not come under judgment!** And regardless of those who want to stiff-arm & disarm the claim, there IS a future judgment that IS coming,

The Judge of All?

John 5:26-29 (CSB) ²⁶ For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he has granted to the Son to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has granted him the right to pass judgment, because he is the **Son of Man**. ²⁸ Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming **when all who are in the graves will hear his voice** ²⁹ **and come out**—those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Every Jewish person would have understood Jesus to be identifying as the **Son of Man** in Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:13-14 (CSB) ¹³ I continued watching in the night visions, and suddenly one like a **son of man** was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. ¹⁴ He was given dominion, and glory, and a kingdom; so that **those of every people, nation, and language should serve him**. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Raising 1 person from the dead would be amazing, but Jesus is claiming to be able to call ALL DEAD PEOPLE out of their graves, resurrecting them to **life** or to **condemnation**. Quoting from C.S. Lewis in last week's teaching:

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher.²

Jesus Points to the Eyewitness Evidence

John 5:30-37a (CSB) ³⁰ "I can do nothing on my own. I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³¹ "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. ³² **There is another who testifies about me**, and I know that the testimony he gives about me is true. ³³ You sent messengers to **John**, and he **testified to the truth**. ³⁴ I don't receive human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. ³⁵ John was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. ³⁶ "But I have a greater testimony than John's because of the works that the Father has given me to accomplish. **These very works I am doing testify about me that the Father has sent me**. ³⁷ The Father who sent me has himself testified about me.

John the Baptist testified that Jesus was the One whose sandals he wasn't worthy to tie, the One John called "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:26-31). The proof of who Jesus is continues to be demonstrated in the many miraculous **works** Jesus was **doing**. Yet despite the proofs from John & the Father, these religious leaders refused to acknowledge the authority of Jesus. So now Jesus presents the evidence for THEIR GUILT.

From Defense Attorney to Prosecutor

John 5:37b-40 (CSB) You have not heard his voice at any time, and you haven't seen his form. ³⁸ You don't have his word residing in you, because you don't believe the one he sent. ³⁹ You pore over **the Scriptures** because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet **they testify about me**. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to me so that you may **have life**.

The Jewish leaders know **the Scriptures**, but not the One whom the Scriptures **testify about - JESUS**. Consider the weight of this claim! Imagine someone saying to you, "*The Scriptures testify about ME. If you come to ME, I'll give you LIFE. But if you don't...you are guilty in your sins!*"

Digging Deeper

John 5:41-47 (CSB) ⁴¹ "I do not accept glory from people, ⁴² but I know you—that you have no love for God within you. ⁴³ I have come in my Father's name, and yet you don't accept me. If someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, since you accept glory from one another but don't seek the glory that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. **Your accuser is Moses**, on whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ For **if you believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me.** ⁴⁷ But if you don't believe what he wrote, how will you believe my words?"

RECAP

- The son gives eternal life to whoever He pleases (v21)
- People are to honor the Son just as they honor the Father (v23)
- The dead will hear the voice of Jesus & rise from their graves, some to LIFE & some to be CONDEMNED (v28-29)
- The Scriptures point to Jesus (v39) and Moses wrote about Him (v46)!
- Those who believe Jesus HAVE (currently) eternal life! (vv.24-25)

ETERNAL LIFE begins before THIS LIFE ends

John 5:24 (CSB) ²⁴ "Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me **has eternal life** and will not come under judgment but **has passed from death to life.**"

FEET2FAITH

Read through one of the Gospels with fresh eyes, and make note when Jesus does/says something that should cause us pause and why. Then share with another brother/sister. - example: Jesus forgives sin, walks on water, says that believing IN HIM is how a person receives eternal life.

* **Want to talk further?** Please contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon! Or call our **deacons & wives:** Tom & Martha Waddail, Steve & Debbie Bass, Freddy & Joyce Howard, Jere & Darlene Burnette, Alan & Christy Androski, Willy & Melissa Gamalero.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share some passages you read LAST WEEK that caused you to pause at something Jesus SAID or DID.
2. **Read John 5:22-23, Isaiah 42:8 & Philippians 2:9-11.** Who won't Yahweh (personal name for God) give His glory to? What accounts for why Yahweh would share His glory with Jesus?
3. Look back over the claims Jesus makes in our teaching from this week (John 5:21, 23-25, 28-29, 39, 46) and share which claims are most significant to you, and why. (Take your time to look through these passages and discuss them.)
4. What else challenged or encouraged you from today's teaching? (Look back over your notes and share!)
5. Pray for one another this week. Consider texting or calling same sex believers to pray and share together this week.