

03/29/20 Sermon Notes

Part of Just Getting Started A series on the Gospel of John

March 28, 2020

Message: Ultimate Crossover

Series: Just Getting Started

Recap: We're in the eleventh week of this series on the Gospel of John. Written by one of many Johns in Scripture, this was the disciple who Jesus loved. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are synoptic gospels (they are similar in structure and content) but John is different. He wrote his gospel to the world, to you. John tells the story of Jesus' life, ministry, death, resurrection, and it tells the story that through Jesus, you're Just Getting Started!

We have a lot of 'crossover' experiences in life, our lives are full of them (crossover from student to employee, from single to married, from no kids to parenting). Some are more significant than others. Some are more life changing than others. Some crossovers are good and some are bad. Today's message is about the ultimate crossover!

An important question: Are you ready to die? Are you ready for the crossing?

Breaking the Rules

Last week we spoke about Jesus healing people but essentially telling them, "You are healed, but you need to be saved!" The government official and his entire family were saved. But the man at the pool of Bethesda never made the decision to believe in and follow Jesus. Jesus caused a stink by his actions that day.

- Jesus told the man to WORK on the Sabbath
- Jesus HEALED on the Sabbath

Doing anything on the Sabbath other than keeping the day as a holy

day for God was considered a sin. But the religious leaders were so intent on hating Jesus, they missed the fact He is God.

John 5:16 (NLT)

So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules.

The Greek word translated 'harassed' means driven away, persecuted, and not just a one time event, but implying He was persecuted and they 'kept it up' - they constantly harassed Jesus.

The Sabbath is most often known from the Ten Commandments with #3 saying keep the Sabbath holy, a day set aside as being holy to God. It's derived from the Hebrew word that means cease or desist. These are legal terms we use today to get someone to stop.

- On the Sabbath, we're supposed to STOP

But that's not all! In Jesus' day the Sabbath went from Friday evening to Saturday evening, in modern day we recognize Sunday as being the Sabbath.

- God gave us the Sabbath as an opportunity to serve Him and remember two great Biblical truths, CREATION and REDEMPTION
- When we don't cease and desist, when we don't serve God, when we don't remember creation and redemption, we are SINNING against God

These leaders were charging Jesus with sinning on the Sabbath, not realizing HE IS GOD... He makes the rules, not them... not us.

I Am God

John 5:17-18 (NLT)

17 But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I."

18 So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him.

For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God.

- Jesus told everyone; I am the SON of God

John 5:19-23 (NLT)

19 So Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.

20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. In fact, the Father will show him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished.

21 For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants.

22 In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge,

23 so that everyone will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him."

Jesus was painting the picture of the Holy Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit). He said - when you look at me, I want you to see my Father; when you look at my actions, I want you to see my Father; when you hear the things I say, I want you to hear my Father... everything I do, I want it to point to my Father.

What About You

If we believe in and follow Jesus, then shouldn't all those things be true of us too? When people look at us, shouldn't they see our Father? When people hear us, shouldn't they hear our Father? Shouldn't all we do and say point people to our Father?

In v.18, the Jewish leaders thought Jesus was lying when He said He was God's Son and they tried harder to kill Him. Because He claimed to be equal with God He must be put to death!

He could have ran away, but He didn't. In v.20...

Jesus tells the religious nuts... if you think you've seen all there is, you haven't seen nothing yet - the best is yet to come! We're just getting started!

—Pastor Chad

Flash back to the government official and the lame man at the pool from last week, Jesus taught them healing was a temporary fix, but it

wasn't the answer. They needed salvation... they needed to be saved! After being harassed, constant persecution, Jesus turned to them and offered them salvation. "My Father and I are in the business of bringing the dead back to life!"

John 5:24-30 (NLT)

24 "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

25 "And I assure you that the time is coming, indeed it's here now, when the dead will hear my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live.

26 The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son.

27 And he has given him authority to judge everyone because he is the Son of Man.

28 Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God's Son,

29 and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.

30 I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.

- Jesus turns to them and with the love that comes from His Father in heaven says this - if you believe My Father holds in His hand eternal life, and if you'll turn your life over to Him, you will cross over from DEATH to LIFE

That's the ultimate crossover!

He goes on in v.25 to emphasize, regardless of how dead you are without God in your life... a time is coming...

- The time is NOW, regardless of how dead you are, you can live

There's no excuse for you dying and going to hell - you have heard the truth. The time is now! Change your life today, in this moment, make the ultimate crossover from death to life!

It doesn't matter how bad your past is, how dark your present is, there's nothing - I repeat - nothing you can do that will make Jesus love you any less. There is nothing you can do that will make Jesus want to save you any less than He does at this very moment.

—Pastor Chad

It breaks God's heart when one of His creation crosses over from death on earth to death in hell. The destination is up to you. Choose heaven! Choose Jesus! Crossover from death to life!