

That You May Have Life In His Name

John 5:18-47

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Remembering the context: Jesus has just healed a lame man at the pool called Bethesda, this 38 yr old man healed by Jesus tells the Jews in the temple how Jesus healed him... on the Sabbath. .

John 5:18–47 (ESV): Jesus Is Equal with God

18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

What happens next is Jesus establishes to these Jewish opponents how His authority is based on who He is.

The Authority of the Son

19 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. 22 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

25 “Truly, truly, I say to 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. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

- *Jesus does what He sees the Father doing.*
- *What the Father does, He does likewise.*
- *The Father loves Jesus and shows Jesus all He is doing.*
- *The Father raises the dead and gives life - and Jesus can do the same.*
- *The Father has given all judgment to Jesus*
- *The Father does this so that all may honor Jesus just as they honor the Father.*
- *Jesus says if you dishonor the Son - you are dishonoring the Father.*
- *Jesus reiterates that if you hear his words and believe the Father sent him, has eternal life, not coming into judgment but passing from death to life.*
- *Jesus says an hour is coming where the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.*

- *Jesus says as the Father has life in himself — Jesus has life in himself as well.*
- *Jesus says the Father has given him authority to execute judgment because Jesus is the Son of Man.*

What happens next is Jesus begins making a legal defense to angry Jewish opposition. Jesus answers their questions and opposition with four clear statements that confirm Jesus is God: John the Baptist, His works, His Father, The Scriptures

Witnesses to Jesus

30 “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. 31 If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. 32 There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. 33 You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. 35 He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. 36 But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. 37 And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, 38 and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

1. John the Baptist bears witness (v 35-35)

a. John 1:29-34

- i. *John 1:29–34 (ESV): Behold, the Lamb of God*
- ii. *29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”*

2. *His works bear witness (v36)*

- a. *Wedding at Cana*
- b. *Cleansing the temple / conversation with Nicodemus*
- c. *Jesus at the woman at Samaria*
- d. *Jesus healing the official's son*
- e. *Jesus healing the lame man at Bethesda*

3. *The Father bears witness (v.37-38)*

- a. *Matthew 3:16-17 (ESV): 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

4. *The Scriptures bear witness about Jesus (v.39)*

- a. *These Jewish leaders would have known from the Pentateuch, from the Prophets, from the books of wisdom (the OT) that God is faithful, that man is sinful, and that salvation belongs to the Lord, that the promise of a Messiah was clear.*
 - b. *Jewish minds would know the stories from history*
 - i. *Noah's faith and drunken disobedience*
 - ii. *Abraham's faith and impatient disobedience*
 - iii. *Moses' faith but disobedience in the wilderness*
 - iv. *David's heart for God and adultery / murder*
 - v. *The cycle of rebellion and repentance in Israel's history.*
 - c. *Jewish minds would also know the words of Daniel or Isaiah or Jeremiah, they would know God's promise to send a Savior*
- *Jesus warns these Jewish leaders of the danger of rejecting Him. Jesus tells them they are missing the point... They search the Scriptures, they know the stories, they know the Psalms, they know the Prophets — yet they cannot see God's faithfulness standing right in front of them. Jesus is telling them the Scriptures bear witness of who HE IS.*

40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. 41 I do not receive glory from people. 42 But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? 45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

Jesus tells them:

1. You have not heard the voice of the Father; His form you have never seen
2. You do not have God's word abiding in you — the proof — for you do not believe the one whom He has sent.
3. You search the words of Scripture --- but you REFUSE to come to me that you may have life.
4. You do not have the love of God within you
5. I am here in my Father's name and you do NOT receive me
6. You are seeking a different glory — not the glory that only comes from God
7. You don't even believe Moses — and Moses wrote about ME. If you don't believe Moses, how will you believe me?

How is Jesus making a clear statement about His deity and authority?

- Jesus answers his opponents with very clear information about the Father / Son relationship, Jesus does what He sees the Father doing. What the Father does, He does likewise. The Father loves Jesus and shows Jesus all He is doing. The Father raises the dead and gives life - and Jesus can do the same. The Father has given all judgment to Jesus. The Father does this so that all may honor Jesus just as they honor the Father. Jesus says if you dishonor the Son - you are dishonoring the Father. Jesus reiterates that if you hear his words and believe the Father sent him, has eternal life, not coming into judgment but passing from death to life. Jesus says an hour is coming where the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. Jesus says as the Father has life in himself — Jesus has life in himself as well. Jesus says the Father has given him authority to execute judgment because Jesus is the Son of Man.
- **How is rejecting Jesus the same thing as rejecting God?**
 - For these Jewish leaders, Jesus is trying to help them see they cannot reject the one God has sent.
 - For us today — as Christ followers — in a world of pluralism, among many who claim “god” can be whatever one chooses to believe, we are to hold up with unapologetic faith, that Jesus is God.
 - *Colossians 1:15–20. [15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross*

- *Hebrews 1:1–3 (ESV): The Supremacy of God’s Son [1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,]*

- **What does the word of God mean to you?**

- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV): 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
- It’s possible for people to know about the Bible without ever knowing God, and one indication of this is the difference between information and God-glorifying transformation, evidence of the fruit of the Spirit, evidence of faith working in love...
 - If you know verses about God’s love, but you are not loving...
 - If you know verses about God’s grace, but you are not gracious...
 - If you know verses about God’s forgiveness, but you aren’t forgiving...
 - If you know verses about God’s glory, but you aren’t humble...
- James Boice, “*What is the primary purpose of Scripture? Is it to record the history of God’s dealings with men? It does record such history, but that’s not its primary function. Is it to reveal certain truths to men? Although it does reveal truths, this is not its primary function either. The primary purpose of Scripture is to point men and women to Christ.*”
- The Bible tells us the story of God’s faithfulness, of our condition, of God’s great redemption and salvation for those who trust in Jesus, and what it means to be with God for eternity. Why would we not want to know this more? What is distracting you from pursuing Jesus?

- **What does it look like for you to come to Jesus for life? What does it mean for you to have life in His name? How do you live by grace through faith in Jesus? How does knowing Jesus inform your vocation, your relationships, your marriage, your parenting? How does knowing Jesus shape your finances? How does knowing Jesus form your life? – This week @ Summit.**