

John-11
“Life Through the Son”
John 5:10-47 (NIV)

Hey Nesong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first-time guests and those who are watching us online!

So glad that you're here! We're in a series in the Gospel of John...it's going to take us most of the year to walk through it...

It's written by Jesus' close friend John...and John tells us some things about Jesus that Matthew, Mark & Luke don't tell us...

John has an agenda...he gives us the reason why he's written this book about Jesus...

Series Verse

31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Last week we were in chapter five of John's Gospel, where we found another story that is unique to John...

If you missed it...or you were asleep...let me catch you up to speed...

There's a guy who was an invalid and suffering for 38 years...It was all he knew...

He was outside the Temple...at a pool called Bethesda...This pool was a place where thousands of sick and disabled people would gather because there was a belief that an angel would stir the water and the first one in would be healed...

This man has an encounter with Jesus...
Jesus walks up to him and asks a strange
question... “Do you want to get well?”

The guy never really answers the
question...instead he gives an excuse as to
why he can't get into the pool...

Jesus told the man “Get up! Pick up your mat
and walk.” This man was instantly healed! The
man gets up...he takes Jesus at His Word...he
grabs the mat that he's been laying on and
walks away!

Everyone should be excited about this right?
Wrong! John tells us that this happened on the
Sabbath Day...

So this guy is walking through the Temple and
some religious leaders see him walking with his
mat...

They say to him...yo it's Sabbath...the law forbids you to carry your mat...

Now sidenote...The religious leaders of Jesus' day were all about rule keeping...They were so zealous to keep God's Law that they created their own set of rules to follow so that they wouldn't break God's rule...

For instance...

God commanded that His people take a Sabbath rest...they were to do no work and rest...in order to not break that commandment they came up with all of these rules for what constitutes "work"

For example, according to their law, their law, you couldn't look into a mirror on the Sabbath. You know why? Here's their rationale: if you look into a mirror on the Sabbath and you see a grey hair on your head, you'll be tempted to pluck it out. And that's labor.

And so they tell this man, you can't carry your mat—it's the Sabbath. According to their law, anything that weighed more than the combination of two dried figs was considered a burden to bear. And so they nailed him. It's the Sabbath-Skip Heitzig

So these religious leaders catch this guy breaking their man-made rule (which had become “law”) and they're like why are you breaking the law?

The guy's like, I'm just doing what the Man who healed me told me to do...He told me to pick up my mat and walk...

Instead of being excited that this man just got healed...they become critical...

Wait a second...who told you to do that?

13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. 14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

(What could be worse than being stuck in the condition that he was in for 38 years? Being in hell for all eternity...Jesus tells this guy...leave your life of sin...you think your life has been a living hell...you have no idea!)

15 The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well. 16 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. -Jn 5:13-16 (NIV)

Sometimes you get into trouble for doing the wrong thing...but sometimes you get into trouble for doing the right thing...

This is a defining moment for Jesus...

Because Jesus healed a guy...He's going to get punished for it...Instead of praising Jesus they start persecuting Him!

Why? Because He's not doing things their way...

Some people have a critical spirit...they always find fault with somebody...If you don't do it their way then you're not doing it God's way...

Critical people are constantly tearing people down instead of building them up...

These guys are so critical... that Jesus is wrong and they're right! That's a red flag! Anytime you think you know better than Jesus...Anytime you're more "godly" than God...You need to pause...you're heading off the road...you're going to crash...you're going to fall!

For the rest of our time today, we're going to look at this conversation that Jesus has with these critical, religious leaders...

And if your Bible has Jesus' words in red...you see that Jesus does most of the talking...Spoiler Alert...They don't like what Jesus is saying...

Jesus claims **EQUALITY** with the Father

So the religious leaders are coming at Jesus...
"How dare you heal someone on the Sabbath"

17 In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." 18 For this reason they tried 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 with God.

19 Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, 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. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. 21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted 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-Jn 5:19–23 (NIV)

Jesus doesn't drop the mic...He drops a bomb!
He calls the God of Heaven His Father 8
times...

He doesn't say "Our Father" as in "we're all God's children"...

He says "My Father" just like He did in chapter two when He cleansed the Temple...He called it **My Father's House!** His relationship with the Father is unique...

"He's referring to Himself as One that has the very same nature as God Himself!"-Skip Heitzig

This is why the religious leaders got so mad they wanted to kill Him! They knew exactly what Jesus meant...He didn't stutter!

It's interesting that so many people deny the deity of Jesus...Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, Oneness Pentecostals...they deny that Jesus is God...They even deny that Jesus ever claimed to be God...

Yet Jesus' enemies didn't deny that!

Here they're saying "You're making yourself equal to the Father"

Five chapters from now...they actually pick up rocks and try to kill Him...When Jesus asks for what good work are you trying to stone Me?

33 "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."-Jn 10:33 (NIV)

He's not just a good teacher...

He's not just another prophet...

He's not just another religious figure...

He is the Son of God...And He's God the Son!

So here's these critical religious leaders and they're upset with Jesus about healing on the Sabbath...

Jesus says Hey newsflash for you...I only do what I see My Father doing...and He works everyday...including on the sabbath!

Maybe someone needs to hear that today?
Did you know that God never takes a sabbath?
Now some of you are thinking...Hey what about in Genesis...God created everything in 6 days and then He rested on the seventh day...

True! But why did God rest? Was it because He was exhausted from all of His work? No! He rested because He was done creating...but that doesn't mean He stopped working...

God doesn't take a day off! This should be a comfort to us! He is always working...He holds everything together...He's in complete control!

If He can handle running the entire universe...He can handle your life...

3 He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand;-Ps 121:3–5 (NIV)

God is God...He doesn't need to rest...we do!
The sabbath is a gift to us...so we can rest while He works!

Jesus said

27 ...“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”-Mk 2:27–28 (NIV)

God doesn't need to rest...we do! He doesn't need to take a break...we do! He doesn't need to take a sabbath...but He gives it to us as a gift...He's always working...always caring for you...even on the Sabbath...

Religious people don't like to hear that...

Jesus holds **AUTHORITY** over life & judgment

24 *“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. 25 Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come 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 judge because he is the Son of Man. 28 “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. 30 By myself I can do nothing;*

I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me-Jn 5:24–30 (NIV)

Again these are amazing claims coming from Jesus!

“With these words Jesus lifted Himself far above any mere man. Think of it: “Here My word and have everlasting life.” This was either the babbling of an insane man or the words of God Himself. There is no neutral ground to be found here”-David Guzik

If you ever find yourself having a hard time in prayer or worship...maybe you don't know what to say...Just remember that Jesus has saved you and start with “Thank You!”

We forget sometimes that we who are born again will not have to stand before God and be judged for our sin!

24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

That’s why it’s good news! God isn’t going to judge my sin, because He already judged my sin in the Person of Jesus!

Did you ever think about this...

Jesus isn’t just the Savior of the World

He’s also the Judge of the world...

Sadly those who reject Him in this life...will be judged by Him in the next!

That’s sobering isn’t it?

Jesus has the authority over eternal life and eternal death...

Apologist and author Dr. Frank Turek was speaking at a conference and someone questioned the doctrine of judgement and hell...

“You may be thinking...I thought that God was loving...He is! God is love...but He’s also just!

This means that nobody's going to be treated unfairly in the afterlife...Theres only two things you can get in the afterlife...you can get justice or grace...

Either you can pay for your own sin, or you can allow Jesus to pay for your own sin...the bottom line is...some people don’t want anything to do with Jesus so God lets them go their own way!

Here's the thing about God...He loves us too much to force us to go to heaven against our will...

The assumption is everyone wants to go to heaven and that's not true...Who's in heaven? Jesus is...and some people have been running from Jesus their entire lives.

To suddenly force people to be with Jesus for all eternity wouldn't be right!..Think of it like this...

Ladies have you ever had a guy pursue you whom you did not want to date? Some of you are thinking...yeah and he's sitting right next to me...He will not leave me alone!

Now suppose he keeps asking you out and asking you out...and you finally say look,I like you, but only as a friend...Gentlemen, I've got shocking news for you...she doesn't even like you as a friend...

If she did she would at least hang out...but suppose he keeps coming after you...

He finally says look, I love you so much, I'm going to force you to love me...question...can he force you to love him? No...love by definition must be freely given...so if he truly loves you...he would leave you alone...thats what God does for us....

God pursues us...He sends us creation. He gives us a conscience. He gives us His Word...the Bible, He puts a church in your neighborhood...He sends out missionaries...

*He even blesses all people with common grace...Jesus says in Matthew 5:45
...God causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous...*

As human beings created in His likeness and image we get to experience love, relationships, hope for a future...

Now imagine a place where there is no love, no relationships, no hope, no future...

Where there's just stone cold narcissistic self-absorption...that is hell. It's a place where people are separated from the ultimate source of goodness by their own choice...

Jesus has the power and authority to give you either justice or grace...He loves you enough to let you decide!

Now you can imagine the religious leaders getting more and more upset as Jesus continues to declare His authority...

The amazing thing about Jesus is that He continues to speak the truth in love even to those who hate Him, because He ultimately wants to save them...

This sort of plays out like a court room...

The critical religious leaders put Jesus on the stand and ask Him to explain why He's broken their laws...Jesus gives His defense...Rock, Paper, Scissors...I'm God!

Now Jesus is going to say hey...Don't just take My word for it...I've got witnesses that corroborate my claims!

Now when the religious leaders hear Jesus say this...their minds go to Deut 19:15 that says
...A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Jesus calls **WITNESSES** to testify about Him
31 "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. (in other words...anyone can claim to be somebody...you have to have witnesses) **32**
There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true.

Witness #1 John the Baptist

Remember back in chapter one...the religious leaders came to John and asked him...are you the Messiah? Nope! Are you Elijah? Nope! Are you the Prophet? Nope! Who are you?

I'm the voice of one calling in the desert, Make straight the way for the Lord...Then when John saw Jesus walking by he said "Look the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

33 "You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. 34 Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. 35 John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.

Witness #2 Jesus' Miraculous Works

36 "I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.

Jesus is saying...Hey if you don't like my words...watch my works! I do things that only God can do...I just healed a man who was an invalid for 38 years...that should make you stop and think!

Did you hear about the royal officials' son in Cana? Did you hear about the water turned to wine at the wedding?

When we read the gospels we see that Jesus opens blind eyes, and deaf ears...He feeds multitudes, casts out demons, and even interrupts a funeral by raising a widow's son from the dead! He calms the storm with a word and He walks on water...

These are witnesses to Who He is!

The majority of the miraculous works of Jesus were simple acts of compassion and mercy, done for simple and needy people.

*In this, these **works... bear witness** to the heart of God. The Jews looked for a miraculous Messiah, but they did not look for One who would express His miraculous power in simple acts of compassion and mercy. They looked for the Messiah to use miraculous power to bring military and political deliverance to Israel.-David Guzik*

Jesus is like hey if you don't believe me then how do you explain what I'm doing?

Witness #3 God the Father

By the way...This is the highest authority you can have...There's no One greater than God the Father!

37 And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, 38 nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent.

There's two times in the New Testament where God the Father speaks about His Son Jesus...

One was at Jesus' water baptism...Jesus is getting baptized by John the Baptist and God the Father speaks...He says "You are My Son Who I love...with You I am well pleased..."

That's recorded by Matthew, a tax guy who had no interest in religion before he followed Jesus...Mark who got his testimony from Peter and Luke, an unbelieving doctor who became a believer and then went on a journey interviewing eyewitnesses who lived with and followed Jesus...

The second time is when Jesus was transfigured up on the mountain with Peter, James and John...God the Father spoke

This is My Son, listen to Him!

Jesus is basically saying...You say you love and follow God...Well Your God is My Father and If you could actually hear His voice...He would tell you that you should believe in Me!

Witness #4 The Scriptures

39 You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.-Jn 5:31-40 (NIV)

If it's one thing the religious leaders loved it was the Scriptures...in this case our old testament...

Jesus is saying hey it's possible to study the scriptures and miss the point of them...The Bible is all about Jesus!

The O.T. is Jesus concealed...

The N.T. is Jesus revealed...

You can read the Bible and still go to hell...
You can memorize the Scriptures and still go to hell...

You can read the Bible and never get saved...
This Book can't save you...
This Book reveals Jesus, and Jesus saves you!

Jesus is telling these guys that the very scriptures they've memorized are about Him...and they're ignoring what they say...

Now we do that with God's Word all the time...
We read the Word, and say...yeah I'm not going to do that...

We say things like...
I can't forgive them...
I disagree with that...
I won't trust...

We argue with the Word of God & the God of the Word all the time!

Just because you're in the word...that doesn't mean that the Word is in you...

Imagine reading a map your entire life but never arriving at your destination...the religious leaders knew the Scriptures but missed the Savior!

The real barrier to faith is our **HEART**

41 "I do not accept glory from human beings, 42 but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.

43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but 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 do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

45 “But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. 46 If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. 47 But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”-Jn 5:41–47.

Jesus reveals their ultimate problem...

It wasn't lack of evidence that kept them from believing...it was an unwillingness to believe...

For them it was all about getting the glory instead of giving Jesus the glory...

They ultimately lived for each other's approval instead of God's approval...

They wanted to make a name for themselves instead of making Jesus famous...

Jesus is like hey...in the end I'm not going to accuse you...Moses is...

You think you're following Moses...and the Law...well if you really were...you would follow Me...

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”-Ge 3:15 (NIV)

9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.-Nu 21:9 (NIV)

17 “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth-Nu 24:17 (NIV)

**15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.
-Dt 18:15 (NIV)**

The Passover...

The Feasts...

It all points to Jesus!

Do you remember in Luke's Gospel two of Jesus' disciples are walking to Emmaus on resurrection day?

They're walking and talking and Jesus appears to them, but they don't realize it's Him...And Jesus asks them why they're upset...

And one of them is like...bro where have you been...they killed Jesus and we're all confused because we thought He was the Messiah...

Now a couple of the girls are saying that His tomb is empty...we don't know what to think

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"

26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.-Lk 24:25–27 (NIV)

Wouldn't you like to have been part of that Bible Study?

The greatest obstacle to faith is our pride!
These guys studied Moses and missed Jesus...

It's not a lack of evidence...it's an unwillingness to believe the evidence!

I think it's fitting that this message comes to us a few weeks away from Easter Sunday!

It's time for us to roll up our sleeves and do our part to invite as many people as we can to our Good Friday & Easter Sunday Services!

Let's be hope dealers...

Let's not just be inviters ...Let's be bringers!

Your invitation can mean the difference between someone spending eternity in heaven or hell...

Let's do everything we can do...and let's watch God do what only He can do!

We want to see people saved and set free this Easter...it starts with you! Grab some invitations on your way out, and invite, invite, invite!

As we close today, we who belong to Jesus, are reminded that there's nothing that our God can't do!

He never sleeps...He never slumbers...Even when we don't see it...He's working!

What do you need Him to do for you today?

Are you facing something impossible?
All things are possible with Him!

We're going to spend some time in prayer...

What's the Holy Spirit Saying To Me?

I want to speak to you today if you're here or you're watching online and you're not a believer...

I want to remind you of Jesus words in John 5
24 "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life-Jn 5:24 (NIV)

These words are still being fulfilled today! You can cross over from death to life...TODAY!

That's the heart of the Gospel...

The Gospel is not about trying harder to be good enough for God...

The Gospel is the good news that **Jesus did for us what we could never do for ourselves!**

Every one of us has sinned...

Every one of us has fallen short...

But God loved us so much that He sent His Son....

Jesus lived the life we couldn't live...

He died the death we deserved to die...

And three days later, He rose again so that anyone who believes in Him could receive **forgiveness, new life, and eternal hope.**

The question today is the same question this passage confronts us with:

What will you do with Jesus?

The religious leaders had the Scriptures...
They had the evidence...But they refused to
come to Him.

Today you have the same opportunity they
had...but you can make a different decision.

Maybe you're here today and you know...

Your life isn't right with God...

You've been carrying guilt or shame...

You've been trying to fill the emptiness in your
life with other things...

You know you need a fresh start...why not start
today?

Not someday...

Today!

If you're ready, I want you to come right now!

Altar Time