

## **Declaring The Truth About Jesus, Part 2**

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**John 5:22-24**

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So last three years has taught us a lot of things, and one of the things that has taught us is that people are afraid to die. They'll do whatever they have to do. They will do whatever they are told to do to hold on to their lives, and it makes sense. We love life. It's all we've ever known. Much of our joy is attached to things that happen in this life, even though we know life was happening before we got here, and life will continue after our lives are over, we still cling to the life that we have, and because life is so precious, we give very little thought to the end of our lives, to our deaths. We don't think about that. We don't want to think about, get that stuff out of my thoughts, and even less, if we're not thinking about death and we give even less thought to what life will be like after our death.

We don't live each day like we're going to die. We don't live each day like we're going to live forever. But when we come to Jesus words, which we just read in John chapter 5, we see that the topic today is life after death. The topic notice at the beginning of verse 22 and at the end of verse 24 that the subject, the topic that bookends the text we're going to look at today is the word judgment. Look at verse 22. "The Father judges no one, but it's given all judgment to the Son." Notice verse 24, people don't have to come into judgment. That doesn't have to be their experience. They can pass from death to life. You see, the eternal reality of judgment is coming like a freight train with the breaks out. It can't be stopped. It's a reality that's coming for us whether we like it or not, whether we're expecting it or not and all of that revolves around the truth about Jesus. He is not disassociated from that. He is the center of that reality. To remind you of the context, the truth about Jesus was clearly on display when he instantly completely and truly healed a paralyzed man after he'd been paralyzed for 38 years. The religious leaders, they confront Jesus because he did this on the Sabbath. But Jesus' response verse 17 is well if God can work on the Sabbath, so can I, and by saying that they understood verse 18, that he was saying that he is equal to God. So here they are, this Jewish peasant, this 30-year-old carpenter. They want him dead for saying that, but that doesn't stop him. He actually, in verse 19, starts a defense of that truth that lasts for 28 verses, multiple lines of argumentation, all to culminate in the truth that Jesus is in fact equal with God, verse 18.

Now as we enter verse 22, Jesus is in the middle of explaining something. Look at verse 20 says at the end of the verse, "Greater works than these will he show him." So the Father is going to show Jesus greater works, greater works than what? Greater works than just healing that paralyzed man. He's going to show him greater works, notice, "So that you may marvel." Well, what are these greater works? Well, the first one is in verse 21 that Jesus is going to raise people from the dead. So listen, if you hated Jesus and wanted him dead like these guys here, but then he raises you from the dead, you know what you're going to do? Verse 20, you're going to

marvel, you're going to be blown away and panic at the same time. Then the second greater work that these men are going to see and marvel at is verse 22, where the Father judges no one but is given all judgment to the Son. The idea here is that when these men realize that the one that they're persecuting, verse 16, the one that they want to kill according to verse 18, that this Jesus is the one who's going to judge them. Again, they are going to be blown away with panic. The lives of these men, in other words, were unstoppably headed towards a moment when they will stand before God and be judged and they believed that they had no problem with that idea. That's why they were so religious. That's why they were were coming after Jesus in this moment. They wanted to be faithful to the Lord. The problem comes when Jesus declares to them that he's going to be the judge that they are going to stand before and notice that's because the Father, verse 22 gave him that right. Notice the text says that the Father will in no way judge anyone because all judgment belongs to Jesus.

He's not a rival to the Father, just the opposite. He is humanity's judge, and that's because the Father gave him the authority to execute judgment on all mankind. He's been given the entire government of the world, whether they recognize it or not, whether they even like it or not, whether they even like the idea of judgment or not. Jesus is the king and judge of all mankind, including the men who were there that day. Now, Jesus being humanity's judge, not the Father, might surprise you a little bit, might raise some questions, but I want you to understand that he's not going to do this work of judging humanity independently apart from the Father. That's because verse 19 says, Jesus only ever does what? What he sees the Father doing. So the Father and the Son are not separate when it comes to judgment. Note, they are working, they will work together and verse 30 says that Jesus never does what he wants to do, but he only ever does what? Verse 30, what the Father wants him to do. In other words, Jesus can be trusted that his judgment will not just be acceptable to the Father. Well, glad he made that decision. Know that his judgment will be identical to the Father's. If you think about it, the Old Testament says that only God can judge anybody and if you think about God judging all humanity, in order for that to be fair, you would need a judge that has what, knowledge of all humanity that knows every single person and everything every single person has ever done. The judge would need to know all of that, which points to the fact, not just the Old Testament, but now the fact of Jesus being the judge points to the fact that Jesus is as it says in verse 18, equal with God.

So if you think about it, Jesus already has the authority to judge because he is God. But it says here that the Father gave him the right to judge humanity. Well, how do you untie that knot? You untie it by saying that Jesus is the God man. He is in his deity, he already has the right to judge because he's God, but as human, the Father gives him the right to judge. So the one who died for sinners, the one who came and died to save sinners is also the one who will judge sinners who refuse to come to him and be saved from their sin.

Well, that's what Jesus is saying here in verse 22, and if that's the truth about Jesus, then you must point #1) ***Live Like Jesus Will Judge You. You must live like Jesus will judge you.*** If Jesus is the judge of all mankind, that makes Jesus what? Your judge too, like these Jewish leaders that day, each one of us has an appointment before Jesus Acts 10:42. "Jesus is the one

appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead." Matthew 16:27, Jesus says about himself that, "... he will repay each person according to what he has done."

Well listen, Preacher, I don't like the idea of judgment. Makes me feel bad. Well, why are you judging me then? So judgy for that. But seriously, ultimately truth doesn't ask us for our opinion, does it, and if what Jesus says here is true, then you will give an account to him for your life. Now, when is that going to happen? Well, it's different for believers versus those who reject Christ. Jesus will judge believers at a different judgment than the one that he will judge those who are not Christians today. So for Christians, what is our judgment going to be like? 2 Corinthians 5:10 says, we Christians, "...must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." What's the purpose? "So that each one, each Christian may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil." In other words, Jesus will assess how you lived your life and gave and give you what you deserve for how you lived your life. Now listen closely, this judgment has nothing at all to do with salvation, nothing at all. Salvation was already settled at the cross before you were even born where all your sins were judged with Jesus as your substitute in that judgment. He takes your punishment for your sin, your salvation is secure. That's not what this is about. This judgment is for rewards. Why? Because God's not a communist. He's not anti, he is anti-socialism.

He does not give people the same rewards regardless of how much they live to please him in their life. Every believer goes to heaven. That's the equality. Every those who believe in Christ all go to heaven. But when we are there, every believer in heaven will have a different amount of rewards based on the good or evil of their lives. What that means is all your obedience matters. All you're doing the right thing when it's hard matters, all the self-denial, all the living for Christ, instead of living for yourself, all the serving others, all the saying no to your desires for sin, all the discouragement and unanswered prayers, all the rejection that you receive for following Christ, all the patient endurance, all the trust in the midst of pain and even persecution. All of that will be worth it on that day.

Now for non-Christians today, their judgment is going to take place after the thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth, when Revelation 20 says that Jesus will take his seat as humanity's judge on the great white throne. Revelation 20, verse 12 says, "I saw the dead great and small standing before the throne and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the Book of Life and the dead were judged by what was written in the books according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, death in Hades gave up the dead who were in them and they were judged, each one of them, each one of them according to what they had done. The dead in Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

Listen, if you're not a Christian, that is your future. It is assured, it is certain, it is unavoidable without Christ. The men Jesus spoke to that day are going to be there. Revelation 20 is describing and they will marvel John 5:20 because the one they confronted, the one they

persecuted, the one they wanted to kill and eventually had killed, he will be their judge. Listen, he will be your judge too, and the standard for your judgment will be righteousness. In other words, what is right according to what God says is right. Not what you say is right or what your peers say is right or social media says is right or our culture says is right, but what God says is right based on his word. So you'll be judged according to what you have done and you'll be found guilty and you'll be thrown into the lake of fire and you will remain there forever and ever world without end to pay for your sins against the holy God, which is a payment you can never fully make.

You and I, we can ignore the speed limits and do whatever we want in our car and we may get away with it for a while, but eventually the police will judge, you're driving to be reckless and punish you for it either with a fine or jail time, right. Then the inner lawyer inside of you might be going, wait a minute. Some people get away with it all the time, right? They get away with it all the time. They could get away with it for their whole lives. The cops never catch them. How come the cops are never there? That may be true for the police, but nobody gets away from Jesus.

Listen, Jesus said this to these men that day for the same reason I'm saying it to you now, because I love you and I do not want you to be there. I do not want you to stand before Jesus as one who refused to come to him and be saved when, who didn't trust in his death for your sins, when who decided that the very best thing for me is to push this Jesus nonsense away and do whatever I want to do. That may be great for your life, that you may get away with that for your entire life, but you're not getting away with it forever. Why? Because what Jesus says in verse 20 is either true or it's false. Either he is the judge of all humanity or he's not, and if he's not, then who cares? Ignore him. There's no consequence for it. Whoop de do. But if he's right, what if he's right? If he's right, you believe in him and you avoid the great white throne, second death lake of fire, you avoid all of it entirely. Saved from your sins adopted into God's family, heaven is assured. But if he's right and you ignore it, the consequences are eternally painful.

So if you're not a Christian living like Jesus will be, your judge starts with turning from your rebellion against him and trusting in him to save you from your sins. Then after that it's living like you will stand before him, not for salvation. That's taking care of at the cross stand before him for rewards, for how you lived your life, how you spent your time, how you spent your money, how you use the abilities and talents and passions that God has given you either for yourself or to honor God and to bless other people.

Christian, are you living like Jesus will be your judge? Are you just kind of going along with the flow of life, just kind of living for the day and not really thinking about it that much and caring really deeply about insignificant things and maximizing self-interest and pleasure and using everything on yourself. Yeah, I'm committed to Jesus, but as long as it doesn't make me look too weird or make me too uncomfortable, are you living so that when you find out that, oh, I'm standing before Jesus right now, are you living so that's like you hear, whew, just made it. Are you living like Jesus will be your judge so that you're preparing for that moment so you're living

like you want to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant. See, do you have areas of your life where when God looks at this," he's going to say to me, well done. Good job. Praise the Lord. That's what you want. But there are other parts of your life where he wouldn't say well done. It's in living like Jesus will be your judge just saying, I need to address that. I need to fix that. I need, maybe I need help, maybe I need other people. Maybe I need to read some books. Get I need something, but I need to focus on, I need to fix that. Why? Because I want to live like Jesus is my judge. Why? Because that's what he is.

I would say more, but you get the point. These men are going to stand before Jesus and when they do, they're going to marvel because here he was speaking the truth to them and they said, no thanks. I'm going to live like this is all nonsense. You can do that for a while. These men did that. Could you imagine though being these guys? Being resurrected by Jesus and then looking at him on their judgment day? What do you think they're thinking in that moment? I should have listened to him. I should have repented of my sins and trusted in him. That's what I want for you. Unfortunately, they did just the opposite, which is not God's will. Look at verse 23. Verse 21, Jesus raises the dead. Verse 22, he judges humanity, verse 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. So again, why does Jesus raise the dead? Verse 21, why does he judge all humanity? Verse 22, the answer is so that everyone, all people may honor the Son. Notice, it's not just honor Jesus. What does it say? Honor him just as they honor the Father just as means in the same way, meaning all people including these Jews listening to him that day should give Jesus the same honor that they give God the Father, and he clarifies that at the end of the verse where he says, we don't honor Jesus. Listen, put it this way. We don't honor Jesus as the Father, the Father and Son are distinct persons, but we honor him in the same way as the Father, which is to honor Jesus. What, as God? This word honor in verse 23 is used 21 times in the entire New Testament, but it is used four times in this one verse to make the point through repetition that the same honor, esteem, respect, regard that one has for God should be shown to Jesus.

He clarifies that no one can honor God without honoring Jesus and that to dishonor Jesus as these men were doing that day is to dishonor God too. Why? Because the only God that there is verse 23 is quote the Father who sent Jesus. So when people talk about believing in God and serving God, loving and worshiping God, but they have no commitment to Jesus, they really aren't worshiping God. To think that people honor God while rejecting Jesus is gravely mistaken. That's what these guys were doing. They're thinking we're honoring God by coming after you and he's going, no, no, no, no, no, you cannot honor God and come after me. We are a package deal. So that those who do think that they're honoring God by dishonoring Jesus, that Jesus guy he's done with him and it's just about God. Jesus going, no, you're wrong. It's not one or the other. It's one and the other. It's the package deal. In fact, to worship God apart from Jesus is to worship an idol, a God that doesn't exist. But I want you to notice again, it's not just honoring Jesus. Oh, he's a prophet. He's a great teacher. He's a martyr for the cause. He's a social justice warrior. He's he's the highest of all angels. He became a God through his obedience. No, notice what it says. This is not just honoring Jesus. Notice what it says it is to honor him, what? Just as

God is honored, that is the only way to honor Jesus. In other words, we are to praise, adore, revere, respect, trust, and obey Jesus like we do God the Father. To honor Jesus just as someone honors God is to honor Jesus, what? Is to honor him as God.

Since all of this is true, since this is the truth about Jesus, then we must point **#2) *Treat Jesus as Equal with God. Treat Jesus as equal with God.*** Do you want to sum up Jesus' argument? Up to this point, he's making a case that he's equal to God. So what he's saying by the time we get to verse 23 is that instead of confronting me for helping that paralyzed man and telling him to carry his bed on the Sabbath day, he says, you should be honoring me in the same way that you honor the Father. Their religious minds would be broken apart with anger in this moment, blasphemy, tearing their clothes. Why? Because his argument up to this point is that I'm united with God in my activity. I'm identical to God in nature. I'm equal to God in community. We are, I am with the Father. I'm equivalent to God in the authority both to resurrect the dead and to judge all mankind of because that is, there's no separation between us. We are one. He says, you should be treating me the way that you treat God. That is the truth about me. These guys, these, I mean you could like their religious mind, like their computers are crashing, their anger, their disgusted. They're outraged to hear all of this. But the truth about Jesus is Colossians 2:9, the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily. He is Romans 9:5, God over all blessed forever. He's Titus 2:13 our great God and Savior. Which means if this is the truth about Jesus, that he is equal to God and should be treated as such, then all who disassociate Jesus from God are wrong, and to get Jesus wrong is to get God wrong and a person only gets God right when they come to God how? Through Jesus who is the only way to God. This means that it's these Jews and everyone else who rejects Jesus. It's actually them, not him in the text, but it is them who are guilty of blasphemy. This is the irony of these texts. You're coming after me for blasphemy, but by wanting to kill me, you're actually blaspheming God, not me. God is dishonored wherever and whenever the Son is not honored, or as one author, put it all people will either sing his praise or they will weep his praise. He will be honored either in salvation or in judgment and this also means that if we're to treat Jesus as He as equal with God, then treating him as equal with God means first, means worshiping him, means worshiping him. Think about it. The songs that we've sing, we sing those songs to Jesus and we worship him. We're not doing that. We're not idol worshipers and you read through the New Testament, men refused worship. Read Acts 14, Paul and Barnabas, the people worship them as gods and like, no, don't do that. Tear their clothes. We are not God. Angel like the angel in the book of Revelation. John falls to his feet and starts worshiping and the angel says, get up. Don't do that. I'm not God, don't do that. But when people worship Jesus, he received it. He received it from people when he did a miracle like the disciples who were on the boat when he calmed the storm, it says that they worshiped him. It's like they worshiped him after his resurrection. The women that went to the tomb after the resurrection says that they worshiped him there over and over again. Jesus is worshiped. Yet Matthew 4:10, Jesus teaches that nobody should be worshiped except God alone. Today, right now, Revelation 5, all the inhabitants of heaven worship Jesus, even the angels. Hebrews 1:6 God commands all the angels to worship him and then one day, even though the massive humanity does not worship him, now

one day, Philippians chapter 2, all people will bow down and worship Jesus as Lord. It's coming because he should be treated as God.

Second, treating Jesus is equal to God, means praying to Him, praying to him. It's right to pray to him because he is God. You see this, and there are some instances in the Book of Acts and book of Revelation, second to last verse of the Bible says, "Come, Lord Jesus." I talked to a lady last night who said this was so helpful because she's goes "I feel conviction when I pray to Jesus, I would look at what's going on in the world and I'd just go, come, Lord Jesus" and then instantly she said, I'd feel conviction like, well, he doesn't know when he's coming back, and so maybe you know the Father like he knows, so maybe I should pray to the Father, not Jesus. She goes, this was so helpful. I said, "Yeah, when you pray, come, Lord Jesus, you're actually quoting the Bible verse second to last verse of the Bible." John does not say, Father, send Jesus. He says, "Come, Lord Jesus," he prays to Jesus. That's right to do because he's equal with God. Third, we treat Jesus as equal to God. When we obey him, when we obey him, when we do what he says, when we say, I know what I think or I know what my culture says on this issue, but this is what Jesus says, so I'm going to be done with that. I'm going to embrace what he says. That's obedience. That's good. When we order our lives in ways that follow his teaching, when we submit ourselves to his word, we are treating him as equal with God.

Fourth, and when we treat Jesus is equal to God, we seek to be like him. When what he said and what he did becomes the standard for our lives. When pleasing him and living for him, when doing his will is our goal, we are putting him into the position of highest authority, is the position that belongs to God.

Fifth and finally, we treat Jesus as equal with God when we trust him. When we trust him, when no one and nothing else, not even our own selves becomes the core of our hope and life and death, but all our hope and life and death is fixed and immovable on Christ himself. We are saying, you are the ultimate one for me to trust. Again, that puts him in the place of God alone, which is where he belongs, because he's equal with God. Jesus is not a rival to God. He's not a stand in for God, to treat Jesus as God is to honor the Father because honoring Jesus, verse 23 is honoring God.

It's kind of like kind of like you with your kids. I mean, how many people would be okay with somebody saying, I really like you, but I can't stand your kids. Anybody be okay with that? Probably not. Why? Because you and your kids are what? You're a package deal, you're inseparable. To love them is actually an expression of love for you, right? To honor them, to love them is an expression of honor and love to you. There's no different for God can't say, well, you know God, you're wonderful. I'm all about you, but Jesus, get him out of here. I'm all about you God. God's like, huh? What? No, no, no, and actually John 15:23, Jesus says, to hate me is also to hate God even if, well, I don't hate God. Well, if you reject Christ, if you want nothing to do with him, then you do whether you realize it or not.

So how should people respond to all of this, all these truths? Look at verse 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." The crucial point now comes home to these men who are listening to Jesus who had hatred and murder in their hearts for him. He underlines what he's about to say with the words truly, truly. This is fact. In light of all your deception, in light of the hatred that you have for me, he's saying to them, I'm going to speak the truth and I'm going to do it clearly and sincerely based on my own personal authority. Notice what he says. Truly, truly I say to you, this is a fact and then because he is the compassionate merciful God, Jesus invites these men to end their hatred, end their rebellion, end their murderous desires, end their blasphemy, and receive eternal life and notice the text. This offer was not just made to the men who were there that day, but it is made to who? What does it say? It is made to whoever. Thank you for that, which means that invitation is being given to you too. Whoever you might be, whoever you might be, hear Jesus' message, which means listen to respond to what he is saying. Hear in the text elsewhere in His word, the Bible respond to what he is saying, how? By believing, by trusting.

Notice verse 24, trusting in God his Father trusting that what his word says about Jesus is true and when you do that, you will have eternal life. You will not be judged at the great white throne. You will not experience the second death. You will not be cast into the lake of fire. You will permanently pass, verse 24, from your residence being eternal death to your residence your forever home being eternal life. You might be thinking, well, I thought I was supposed to believe in Jesus and not the Father. Yes, but don't forget, the whole point of this text is that Jesus and the Father are one. They're inseparably united. So that to believe in Jesus is to believe in the Father, to believe in the Father is to believe in Jesus. That the two are not at odds. The two are united, one God, two separate persons, two distinct persons. While this is the truth about Jesus, it's the truth about God. It's the truth about you.

This is the truth, but all of this will only make sense to you if, point #3) ***you Take Your Eternity Seriously, take your eternity seriously.*** In other words, you have to be convinced that you're going to live after you die. Like Jesus implies here in this text, that you will stand before him as your judge, which he states in this text, you'll give an account for your life and all it will be in that moment just all it will be, is eternal death or eternal life. That's all. Romans 10:9, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, that he is your king, your master, your judge, your God, and you believe sincerely that God raised him from the dead, you will be rescued from the wrath to come. Please notice verse 24 again, it doesn't say, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me will have eternal life. Does your Bible say that? What does it say? It says, has a wonderful glorious, has meaning. Eternal life is not just something you wait for to have one day in the sweet by and by, but eternal life can be your possession today.

Here, Jesus is inviting people who hated him with a hatred that would lead his crucifixion, a hatred that would've killed him on the spot if they could, to people that wicked, the compassionate God offers them eternal life, which means that you're not too wicked either. You're not too defiled from your sins that Jesus won't take you. Never forget Jesus is the friend of sinners. He was sent to save sinners. Even sinners who are disinterested. Sinners, who are



rebellious sinners, who scoff at this stuff like these guys were scoffing at him that day to take your eternity seriously by coming to him, by trusting in him, and eternal life can be yours today.

Listen, you can't be too sinful to come to Jesus, but you can be too prideful. You can be too convinced. I don't need him. I'm good. Thanks. I don't like that food. Get that food out of here. I don't like that Jesus, get that out of here. It's all the same. No, it's not. That's you not really taking your eternity seriously. Why? Because you think it's going to be better for you to stand before Jesus on your judgment day as one who rejected him instead of one who received him. Then you're deeply deceived. Taking your eternity seriously means rejecting your rejection, refusing your refusal, repenting of your rebellion and entrusting your life and your death to Christ alone. What will happen if you do? Only sins forgiven forever, peace with God forever. The guilty verdict that stands over your life for all of your sins will be taken by Jesus, which means the eternal death that you deserve for your sins will be once and for all time replaced forever with eternal life.

See, to not take your eternity seriously is to not care at all about your life after your death. Just, I'm not even thinking about that. No, don't care. To be on your deathbed, crossing your fingers, well, whatever happens, I'll be fine. I'm a good person and I'm not as bad as other people, so I'm going to be good. It's thinking even though, yeah, Jesus, he knows every single thing I've ever done and even though I'm pretty convincing. I'm a pretty convincing guy. Oh, I'll be able to stand before him I'll be able to convince him that I'm good, that I should be in heaven too. I can disregard all this stuff. I got this. That's like thinking that you can cross from one side of the Grand Canyon to the other in your own strength. No, you're dead. You're dead, and listen, whether you have just a few good works in an otherwise wretched life or you lived a sinlessly perfect life except for just one tiny sin, you're still dead. Just like if you got all your strength up and you're looking at the edge of the Grand Canyon and you are running and you're going to jump and you're in all of your glory. You just got one inch off the edge of the cliff, you're dead. Or by some superhuman miracle, you are able to jump all the way to the other side except miss it by one inch, you're still dead.

What Jesus is talking about here is for those who believe, trust in him, they will be transferred from the death side of the Grand Canyon that separates sinners from God. They will be transferred from the death side to the eternal life side. You can't get yourself across, but when you trust in Jesus, he will transfer you. He will take you across. But again, only if you end your rebellion and put your trust, your hope in Jesus and Jesus alone. Now, Christian, what about you? What does it look like for you to take your eternity seriously? I'll look back at point number one. It's living your life like Jesus will be your judge. It's taking each aspect of your life and imagining Jesus, assessing it for faithful adherence to his word. Again, not for salvation that's taken care of right before rewards. In fact, Jesus commands all of his followers to be hoarders. Did you know that commands all of us to hoard Matthew 6:20. He commands his followers, store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. I'm talking to one guy after the series. He's like, I didn't even care about rewards in heaven. I just want to be there. I said, "Well, that's great, but

Jesus tells you to care about these things." So if you don't care about them like you should, because Jesus says you should. Store up for yourselves treasure in heaven.

So this life that we live now is meant for us to all become hoarders of rewards in heaven. This happens. How do we do that? It happens when we live like Jesus will judge us, judge our marriages, judge our free time, our reading habits, our phone habits, our finances, how we used our abilities, all the things that we do, the relationships we have, the stuff that we're taking in all of that, on and on and on.

The Old Testament concept for this is the fear of the Lord. Have you heard of that concept? What does it mean to fear the Lord? It means living your life, knowing the Lord is watching. That's what it means, living your life, knowing the Lord is watching and then assessing whether decisions you're making in every area of your life are pleasing to him or displeasing to him. So that may mean I need help or I need counseling. I need to read some books. I need to end some habits and I need to start new ones. They need to get out of my life. I need to get other people in my life. Whatever that is. You know what? I know God's already working on you through his word right now to show how you should specifically apply this text to your life. Last night I had people telling me how convicting this was. It sure was for me. One guy even told me at the back door, he said this week he was doing the Bible reading plan and he was confronted with how much he had wasted his life. He said, and then I came here and you just kind of piled on. So if that's you in this moment, let me remind you that no Christian lives like Jesus will judge you perfectly. No Christian lives that way perfectly. We all, even pastors, we all stumble in many ways and because of that, let me also remind you of the cross or all of your sins, past, present, and future have been forgiven, removed from you as far as the east is from the west, even things you're feeling conviction about today. Let me also remind you that it is the cross, that it is sins forgiven. It is God's mercy and grace experienced by you that then fuels and motivates and dominates both our desire and our drive to live like Jesus will be our judge. So let the conviction that you might feel drive you to the cross and let the cross do this sin fighting, obedience driving work in your heart and then let it come out of your lives. Let's all live our lives wherever we find ourselves like Jesus will be our judge because the truth about him is that is exactly what he will be for you and for me.

I got nothing after this. So let me end with this. If you're doing the Bible reading plan, you saw this topic this past week, did you not? Matthew chapter 25, you can turn there if you like. Matthew 25, Jesus is going to tell a story about what we're talking about today. Let this story from Jesus help assess your life and help you to live like he will be your judge. Matthew 25, drop down to verse 14. Jesus says here that his kingdom, which him being your king, your judge, your God, his kingdom will quote, "be like a man going on a journey who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents." That's not well the ability to play the piano and the ability to that that's not what talents are. A talent in this text is a year's wages. So he says, here's five years wages up front right now "to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made

two talents more, but he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's," what? Money? So this is money. This is not my talents. "Now, after a long time, the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them." This is judgment day. "And he who had received the five talents came forward bringing five talents, more saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents here. I've made five talents more.'" I've taken what you've given me and here's my life. Here's here's what I lived for. Here you go. And here's the reward. His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a little. I will set you over much. There's your reward. Enter into the joy of your master.'

"And he also had the two talents came forward saying, master, you delivered to me two talents. Here I have made two talents more. His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little. I will set you over much enter into the joy of your master.' He also had received the one talent came forward saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. So I was afraid and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours. But his master answered him...', not well done good and faithful servant, but, 'You wicked and slothful servant. You knew that I reap where I have not sewn and gather why I scattered no seed. Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers and at my coming I would've received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the 10 talents' for everyone who has will more be given, but he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not even what he has will be taken away and cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness in that place where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Now, whether that outer darkness is hell, which would mean that he wasn't really a servant, wicked and slothful would mean that he wasn't really a servant, even though that's what he was called. Or if this is imagery, not for weeping and gnashing your teeth in hell, but weeping and gnashing your teeth on your judgment day because you are a true servant, but you realize I wasted my life either way. Either way, let me ask you, which servant do you want to be? The answer is obvious, right? Well, let's live like the answer is obvious. Let's live to hear. Well done. Let's pray.

Jesus, the interesting thing about preaching through books to the Bible is I don't get to pick the next topic I'm going to talk on. I just preach the next text. It's no accident that any of us are here today. It's no accident that I was in this text today. In your grace, you brought all of us here to hear this word. So I pray for your blessing on what we heard today, meaning use this truth to draw us closer to alignment with these truths. Meaning for some we need to turn from our rebellion and give you our lives, believing in you, trusting in you. For the rest who've already done that, it's taking these truths and living like they're true. So please give us the grace and the encouragement that we need to do just that because we all may be standing in different places when it comes to you now, but one day we will all be standing in the same spot before you and all that will matter on that day is hearing well done from your lips. Get us ready for that day as a result of our time and your word today for the glory of your name, Jesus. Amen.