

Sunday October 22, 2023 | John 5:19-29

Last week we saw Jesus heal a man on the Sabbath. When He did this, it exposed the heart of the religious leaders. They were pursuing rules and not a walk with God. Jesus never sinned and broke the Old Testament law but He was absolutely willing to break the man-made rules and traditions. He will spend the rest of chapter 5 teaching, trying to help them believe in Him.

John 5:16-30 ESV

(16) And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.

(17) But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

(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.**

(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.

As Jesus teaches, He will introduce a core thought by saying "Truly, truly." The Greek word is Amen. It means **let it be so, truly, most assuredly**. He is trying to emphasize that He is teaching them the truth. They might not like it but that does not change it. In verse 19 Jesus says He can only do what the Father is doing. Meaning these actions that they are so upset about the Father is the one who showed Him to do it. **Healing a man on the Sabbath was in the will of God.**

None of Jesus' actions are coming out of His own will, or **out of Himself**, but are of the Father. The Father is guiding Jesus in everything He does. Then verse 20 Jesus is going to explain why the Father is willing to lead the Son like this.

John 5:20 ESV

(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.

This verse gives us insight into the mystery of the trinity. God the Father loves the Son and because of that love is willing to show the Son what to do. In response to this leading the Son walks in perfect obedience and does nothing without being shown. The unexpected thing in this verse is **the word for love is phileô**. We would have expected agapeô God's self-sacrificial love. Phileô means to have a **fondness, affection, or brotherly love** for something. God the Father has a fondness and likes the Son. This is trying to describe the unity that exists within God and is beyond our comprehension. Jesus is claiming perfect unity with the Father. The Jews understood that He was claiming to be equal with God. This was another reason they hated Him. Jesus is going to point out what kind of marvelous things the Father will show Him to do.

John 5:21 ESV

(21) For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, **so also** the Son gives **life to whom He will**.

The Father has the power to give life and so does the Son. Many other people were at the pool that day, remember verse 3 told us it was a great multitude, but only one man is healed. Jesus gives **life to whom He will**.

The man was not more deserving than the others, or worthy. It was purely by grace. We need to thank God constantly for what He has done for us. He has given us life.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 ESV

(13) But we ought **always** to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, **because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved**, through sanctification by the Spirit **and belief in the truth**.

(14) To this He called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In context Paul is encouraging believers to give thanks to God that they are not lost like the people who will believe in the antichrist. He is reminding them that God chose them. **Jesus gave them life as He so chooses**. They do not deserve it. There is not something special about them. It is about Him. They did respond with belief though. Again, notice the balance in the passage.

Man must respond, by trusting in Jesus and yet we can take no credit for our salvation. Throughout His gospel John will emphasize how Jesus has the power to give life. Jesus is going to give further detail in how the Father leads the Son.

John 5:22-23 ESV

(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.

The Father has given the Son certain responsibilities and roles, judgment is one of those rolls. The Father has given the Son the authority to be the ultimate judge. Because Jesus is the judge, all should honor and glorify Him just as they do the Father. This does not contradict John 3:17.

John 3:17 NAS95

(17) "For God did not send the Son into the world **to judge the world,** but that the world **might be saved through Him.**

Jesus can give life and He came to be the savior. It is because of this obedience that He is given the authority to be the judge. He will judge who has life and who does not. Or to put it another way, who has believed in Him and who hasn't. **The standard is Himself, that is why He is the judge.** Jesus is going to explain this in the next few verses.

John 5:24 ESV

(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.**

When someone believes in Jesus they are also believing in the Father who sent Him. The moment someone believes they do not come into judgment, but receive life.

John 5:24 Wuest Expanded New Testament

(24) Most assuredly, I am saying to you, He who habitually hears my word and is believing the One who sent me **has life eternal,** and into judgment **he does not come,** but **has been permanently transferred out from the sphere of death into the life.**

If you are a believer here today, you have permanently been transferred out of darkness, death and future judgment and placed into **THE life.** The word **passed** is in the perfect tense which means it is **a once for all action.** You cannot pass back and forth a lot of times. You are in the kingdom of light. We have access to eternal life **right now.** Before Christ we were dead, but now He has given us life. We can walk in the Spirit and have fellowship with Him. We can walk in the life today!

John 5:25 ESV

(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**.

The time is now. Verse 25 **is not** talking about a future end times event. Jesus is emphasizing the life that He can offer right now. We were dead, and when we heard His voice, we were given life.

1 Peter 4:6 ESV

(6) For this is why the gospel was preached **even to those who are dead**, that though **judged in the flesh** the way people are, they **might live in the spirit** the way God does.

It is the dead who need to hear the life-giving truth of the gospel. They stand physically alive, but are spiritually dead judged in the flesh. The new life that is being offered is in the Spirit. This is how we can walk in eternal life, THE life right now. **It is when we walk in the Spirit**. Jesus has the power to make people spiritually alive in the Spirit.

John 5:26 ESV

(26) **For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in Himself.**

The Father is the great **I AM the self-existent one**. He has life in Himself and relies on nothing. This is what God revealed to Moses at the burning bush, I Am who I Am. God never began, He has always existed. He is life. Jesus has life in Himself, because He is God. Jesus keeps repeating Himself multiple different ways to show the Jews who He is.

John 5:27-30 ESV

(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.**

We must pay very close attention to the differences between verse 28 and verse 25. **Verse 28 talks about an hour that is coming**. It is talking about a future event that is not here yet. Verse 25 is here now. In verse 28 it is those in the tombs, **the physically dead** who hear Jesus' voice. In verse 25 it was the **spiritually dead**. What is amazing is Jesus is showing He is able to conquer every effect that sin has had on us. The moment Adam sinned he spiritually died, then 930 years later (Gen 5:5) he physically died. The life that Jesus offers is **both spiritual and physical**. Notice verse 29 is clear that both the righteous and ungodly will rise.

Acts 24:14-16 ESV

- (14) But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets,
 (15) having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, **that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.**
 (16) So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.

Everyone will rise. The resurrection will be for both the just and the unjust. But these will be two very different events. In fact, they do not even take place at the same time. Paul was excited for the Resurrection of the just and he looked forward to the new body he would receive.

2 Corinthians 5:1-5 ESV

- (1) For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, **we have a building from God**, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
 (2) **For in this tent we groan**, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,
 (3) if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.
 (4) For while we are still in this tent, we groan, **being burdened**—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, **so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.**
 (5) He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, **who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.**

This body we are in is a temporary tent. We are longing for our permanent building that is eternal in the heavens. When we hear His voice we will be changed. We will be swallowed up by life. As a believer this is a sure fact. And to give us a confidence that we will be given a perfect resurrected body, God has given us the Spirit right now as our guarantee. The same Spirit that gives us access to eternal life right now, proves how amazing our future is. We will be resurrected!

2 Corinthians 5:8-10 ESV

- (8) Yes, we are of good courage, and **we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.**
 (9) So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please Him.**
 (10) For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done **in the body**, whether good or evil.

We long to leave this tent of a body and be home with the Lord. Our future is so grand because of Jesus. So, Paul's point is simple, live for that day. **Our aim in life should be to please Jesus.** By walking in fellowship with Him through the Spirit. Remember all judgment has been given to the Son.

As believers we will stand in front of the Bema, judgment seat. Not to deal with our sins, Jesus fully dealt with those. We will give an account for how we have lived for Him. **Life in this body, this tent, matters so much because of the next life that is to come.** The resurrection of the unjust is found near the end of revelation.

Revelation 20:11-15 ESV

- (11) Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. From His presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.
- (12) And 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.**
- (13) And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.
- (14) Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. **This is the second death,** the lake of fire.
- (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

All who rejected Jesus are raised up. Their name is not found in the lamb's book of life. They have not passed from death to life. So, there are judged based on their works. And they all fail. Notice again the standard that verse 29 tells us everyone is judged by.

John 5:29 ESV

- (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.**

If we read this wrong it can sound like we are raised by what we do. That salvation comes through having enough works. But we must understand what John means by doing good. In Chapter 6 the Jews are going to ask Jesus how they can do these good works of God.

John 6:28-29 ESV

- (28) Then they said to him, "What must we do, **to be doing the works of God?**"
- (29) Jesus answered them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.**"

It truly is amazing how simple Jesus makes salvation. How clear He presents the offer of life. **The work of God is to believe in Jesus.** Our future is amazing because of Him. We have eternal life today because of Him. **Let's walk with Him!**