

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 11TH - 12TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

THE LIFE GIVER (JOHN 5:24-30) STILL ADDRESSING THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS

The theme of this section centers around the unity of God the Father and Jesus. V24 assures us that trust in Him and His Word will save us from judgment and eternal "death."

- **We tend to complicate simple truths. If we will just put our faith in Jesus and obey His Word, we will be saved and changed.**

SPIRITUAL/METAPHORICAL RESURRECTION

When Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear [My] voice...[and] will live," He's referring to lost people who are spiritually dead because of sin.

- **Jesus came to not only give us eternal life, but life in the present. This simply means we can have joy, peace, and true love now!**

SON OF GOD VS. SON OF MAN

The most simple explanation of these two titles is that one refers to Jesus' divinity, and one His humanity. **Son of Man** implies more than just humanity, it also shows Jesus' **humility, fulfills prophecy** (Daniel 7), and **also reflects His divinity** (it is capitalized, unlike Ezekiel).

PHYSICAL/LITERAL RESURRECTION

V28-29 are about the second coming of Christ and our literal resurrection. Jesus says when we're all resurrected, "those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to...condemnation."

- **What is "good" is determined by God and His Word.**

"MY JUDGMENT IS JUST"

Jesus not only assures us that we will all be held accountable for our lives, but also that His judgment is righteous. **If we will emulate Jesus and seek the will of God, we have nothing to fear when it comes to eternity.**

- **If we are praying and obeying the Word, God's grace will sustain and encourage us.**

EVIDENCE (JOHN 5:31-40)

SOME EVIDENCE FOR JESUS' CLAIMS

The words "testify" and "testimony" are written 10 times just in this section because Jesus is presenting evidence that supports His claim of divinity and the source of truth.

- Though the Father is the only witness Jesus is really concerned about, He still gives the reader more evidence.

WITNESS #1: JOHN THE BAPTIST

Though Jesus "[doesn't] receive human testimony," He offers us John, who was a "burning and shining lamp," as evidence for who He is so people "may be saved."

- John paved the way for the Messiah and fulfilled prophecy (Malachi. 3), but the religious leaders didn't take him seriously.

WITNESS #2: THE MIRACLES

The "greater testimony than John's" are the "works," or miracles, that God has "given [Jesus] to accomplish."

- Though we shouldn't base our faith on miracles, they do point to the character of Jesus, the message of salvation, and the Kingdom of God.

WITNESS #3: GOD THE FATHER

Jesus tells the religious leaders that God the Father has testified about Him, but they refuse to hear His voice or see His form (Jesus).

- Romans 1:20 tells us **God's "invisible attributes... power...and divine nature have been clearly seen," so people are "without excuse."** The question is if we're looking.

WITNESS #4: THE SCRIPTURE

Jesus was talking to scholars of the Old Testament. So maybe the most damning evidence was the Scripture itself which clearly foretold the coming of Jesus.

- **An open heart and open eyes will produce an open mind, and that should lead to an open Bible.**

IT MUST GO BEYOND JUST WRITTEN WORDS

Jesus said the religious people "pour over the Scriptures" but miss the main point. **The main point of the Bible is that we "come to [Jesus] so that [we] may have life."**

- **The Bible is a roadmap to Jesus and a relationship with Him. We don't worship the Book, but the God of the Book.**

WILLINGNESS TO SEE (JOHN 5:41-47)

"YOU HAVE NO LOVE FOR GOD WITHIN YOU"

The last part of this sermon of sorts to the religious leaders condemns them for falsely accusing and persecuting Jesus. **Their problem is that somewhere along the lines, it became more about them than God.**

- Jesus sees our hearts. **We must be careful to ensure we're prioritizing life properly.**

IT GOES BACK TO THE PURSUIT OF GOD OR SELF

In v43-44 Jesus alludes to the many false teachers and religions who have and will arise over time and how **many have followed them because the teachings affirm the sinful desires of their hearts.**

- **Has this not infiltrated Christianity in the United States?**

A GREAT APOSTASY

Both Jesus (Matthew 24) and Paul (2 Thessalonians 2) spoke of a great falling away from the faith led by false teachers before Jesus returns.

- This doesn't mean blatant disregard of Jesus, but often times it is **a subtle omission or twisting of Scripture. Isn't this the way Satan most often works?**

"GLORY" FROM THE WRONG SOURCE

In v44 Jesus asks how people can believe in Him when they are more concerned about "accept[ing] glory from one another, but don't seek the glory from the only God?"

- **We live in a culture addicted to affirmation. As Christians, we need to be seeking God's approval, not others.**

"YOUR ACCUSER IS MOSES"

The Jewish leaders took a lot of pride in their heritage, but they missed the main point of the 10 Commandments and the clear prophecy of the Savior in Deuteronomy 18:14-22.

- If they had been following the 10 C's out of a desire to know God, they would have anticipated and accepted the Savior.

MOSES EXPOSED, JESUS FORGIVES AND RESTORES

The Law of Moses (10 C's) had no ability to save, only to define right and wrong and expose our sinfulness and need for a Savior.

- **Though we should strive to uphold the 10 C's, we will always fall short. This is why we need a righteous Savior to show us grace, mercy, and justify us before God.**

RESURRECTION(S)

- If we will learn to put our faith, trust, and hope in Jesus, He will give us life. This means **we can be spiritually resurrected from our dead patterns now, and when everyone is resurrected physically, ours will be to eternal life.**
- There is only One with resurrection power.

ALWAYS A DRAW TO SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Our problem is that we can easily get distracted from eternity by our desires in the temporary.
- **We can also start to define and create our version of right and wrong, and this leads to hypocrisy and chaos** because only Jesus determines what is good and bad.

THE PURSUIT OF SELF BLINDS US

- Despite the evidence around us, **when we become more focused on ourselves than God, we miss the evidence of God and what He is doing around us.**
- Also, in the interest of self, we seek the approval of others more than Jesus. This also prohibits us from seeing God.

WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES

- History and the present should be clear indicators that we cannot fix or save ourselves. **The bottom line is simply this: our ways consistently fail.**
- We must reach a place of humility and desperation for God in our lives. Until then, we will be confused, limited, and lost.
- We must intentionally open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to the things of God.
- **This means we must prioritize time to be still, pray, listen, read, think on good things, and seek to be filled with God's Spirit.**
- God is moving all around us, but **we must have a desire to engage** in that movement.