

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 12TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

LIFE (JOHN 5:24–30)

ETERNAL LIFE

In the previous section, Jesus angered the religious leaders by claiming His equality with God.

- **Now, He is going to clarify that He not only can forgive sin and restore legs, but He can also give eternal life to whoever hears and believes in Him.**

DEATH TO LIFE

The time that is “here now” is Jesus giving an opportunity for those who are spiritually dead to know Him and live for the first time.

- **Those who do not have a relationship with Christ are spiritually dead. In a way, we all must die before we can live. The only chance for a “bad tree” is to completely die and be “born again.”**

OUT OF THE GRAVE

The time that “is coming” is when Jesus calls everyone, from all time, to come forward into their resurrection. All Christ followers will enter into their **resurrection life**, but all those who have rejected Christ will be called into their **resurrection condemnation**.

- **We can't blame Christ! His judgment is the Father's will and is based on our life.**

TESTIFY (JOHN 5:31–40)

HIMSELF

Jesus is not saying that His testimony is invalid. He is reminding them that He only does the Father's will and that every word He says about Himself is also a word from the Father.

- **When Jesus speaks, we hear from God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is always in perfect sync.**

JOHN THE BAPTIZER

Jesus reminds them again that John had come and testified that Jesus is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” And they followed John for a little while.

- **Jesus doesn't need the testimony of men to know who He is. He mentions John for their sakes, so maybe they would truly believe.**

JESUS' WORKS

At this point, they had already seen Jesus perform miracles, and there were more to come. Right before their eyes, Jesus was fulfilling prophecy of the Old Testament and would eventually go to His climatic work: redemption achieved in the cross and resurrection.

- **Still, they only saw a man, maybe a prophet, but not a savior.**

THE BIBLE

Jesus comes at them hard when He says they haven't heard God, seen God, or even known His word. These men had “poured over the Scriptures,” studied it, memorized it, and were the most knowledgeable in the land.

- **They even thought they had eternal life. What they had missed was that ALL they had studied pointed to Christ.**

BELIEF (JOHN 5:41–47)

GLORY FROM PEOPLE

Jesus isn't saying that He shouldn't be glorified. He can see the hearts of people and will not “do whatever it takes to be glorified.”

- Jesus is God and has always been worthy of Glory. He doesn't have to “do” anything to become worthy. For us, Jesus has already done everything. Will we open our eyes and see it?

PRAISE FOR PEOPLE

Even in the time of Christ, many would come and declare themselves righteous, holy prophets, messiahs, and messengers with secret revelations.

- **People still seek praise from one another and are willing to say and do anything to receive it. There is a greater praise—from God—that will comfort and sustain: “Well done.”**

JUDGMENT

With all their knowledge and self-righteousness, they had put their hope in Moses (keeping the law) but refused the Savior.

- **If we continue to put our faith and hope in knowledge, desires, and other people's assurances, we too may miss the Savior.**

LIVING

- Life without Christ is living in death.
- **Christ has the power and authority to bring people to life.**
- **Surrendering our lives to Christ will result in a new, eternal life beginning now and a future resurrection life.**

EVIDENCE

- The Trinity declares Christ as the Savior.
- **The Bible, God's people, and our experience declare Christ as the Savior.**
- **The evidence is here, it's living, and it's true. We choose to believe and follow Him or reject Him. Our eternity will be based on what we do with this truth.**

VISION

- The people had heard, read, and expected the Messiah.
- **They followed their traditions and laws.**
- **They still couldn't see Jesus. Are we following traditions or Christ? Does our knowledge make us proud or hungry? Do we really see, believe, and follow Christ?**