

2008 #8 Gospel of John –LIFE THROUGH THE SON
John 5:16-30

Today were looking at the Character and Authority of Jesus
 In John 5:16-30

What is the best time to get to really know someone?
 Is it when things are going well?
 Or when the going gets tough?
 When the road goes uphill?
 When the traffic is back up.
 And the plumbing doesn't work?
 Or when we have been offended.

Sad, but for many of us our dark side comes out,
 In the tough times, and we let down our guard
 and people see who we really are.

Maybe its happened to you.

I was reading about a wedding that was fast approaching. Everything was ready,
 and nothing could dampen Jennifer's excitement, not even her parents' nasty divorce.
 Her mother Sheila finally found the PERFECT dress to wear and would be the best-
 dressed mother of the bride EVER!

A week later, Jennifer was horrified to learn her new young stepmother, Barbie, had
 purchased the same dress. She asked Barbie to exchange the dress, but Barbie refused,
 "Absolutely not! I'm going to wear this dress. I'll look like a million bucks in it!"
 Jennifer told her mother, who graciously replied, "Never mind, dear. I'll get another
 dress, after all it's YOUR special day, not ours."

Two weeks later, another dress was finally found.

When they stopped for lunch, Jennifer asked her mother,
 "What are you going to do with the first dress? Maybe you should return it.
 You don't have any place to wear it."

Her mother replied: "Of course, I do, dear. I'm wearing it to the rehearsal dinner."

Jesus had just healed the paralyzed man on the Sabbath.

And he had claimed to do the Father's work.

thus showing that He and the Father were ONE.

Then the Jews true character came out.

I. THE JEWS ACCUSATION

¹⁶So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him.

John 5:16

You see they had now found out two pretenses to take away his life:

one was that he had broken the Sabbath

The other, that he was guilty of blasphemy,

for which crimes, a man, according to the law, must suffer death.

See Numbers 15:32; Leviticus 24:11,14,16.

In the midst of a challenge

the true nature of the Pharisees comes out.

They were not interested in the fulfillment of the law and prophets,

But only interested in keeping the law and the prophet

One translations say:

They sought to slay him.

The true concerns of the Pharisees and Religious leaders
 were more interested in creeds than deeds.
 More interested in their propaganda than people.
 More interested in their laws than learning.
 Because the prophecies that Jesus was fulfilling
 Pointed to him as the Messiah.
 Why is it we don't like people who step out of the normal.
 Who vary the rules,
 And challenge the status quo?

Walt Disney was a remarkable visionary who challenged the status quo.
 One man who worked for him told how Disney responded to disagreement.
 He said that Disney would occasionally present some unbelievable, extensive dream he
 was entertaining. Almost without exception, the members of his board would gulp, blink,
 and stare back at him in disbelief, resisting even the thought of such a thing.
 Yet Disney would not pursue it, unless every person was unanimously in disagreement.
 Only then was the challenge big enough to merit his time and creative energy!

The miracle Jesus had done on the Sabbath
 Was no more then the law said could be done for one's cow
 If it had fallen in a well. (Luke 6:7; 13:14)
 Instead of making inquiry
 that he was the Messiah,
 they *assumed* he was a renegade,
 and they were unanimous in agreement.
 That Jesus should be punished.
 That is the attitude of every bigot and racist in regard to those who differ from them.

And Vs. 18 says:

¹⁸For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. John 5:18

II. JESUS' DEFENSE

As Jesus defense he gives them this answer:

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, 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. ²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. John 5:19-20

What the Son does is the work of the Father,
 What the Father does is the work of the Son.
 Jesus and the Father are one
 And he is therefore not a created being.

Any person here can do what God cannot do.
 We can sin,
 We can make mistakes,
 But Jesus could do nothing except what God does,

So could neither sin nor err.
Nor act imperfectly.

Jesus argument to the Pharisee and Jewish leaders was this.
If I have broken the Sabbath, so has God;
for I can do nothing but what I see him doing.
He is ever *governing* and *preserving*;
I am ever employed in *saving*.

Someone must have said: "What is God doing?"
Then Jesus immediately mentions two things he and the Father will do.

Raising the dead John 5:21

And Judging the World John 5:22

²¹For 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. John 5:21

When did God raise the dead?

In I Kings 17:22 the widow's son at Sarepta, by the Prophet Elijah.

II Kings 4:32-35 The Shunamite's son, by the Prophet Elisha.

In Mark 5:5-42 Jesus raise the widow's son at Nain,

Luke 7:11-15 He raised Lazarus at Bethany.

He raised from the dead whomsoever he pleased.

²²Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, John 5:22

Jesus was saying that the Father has given judgment to the son.

That every person who would enter the kingdom of heaven

Will answer to the SON

Their acts are common, their power equal.

²³that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. John 5:22-23

If Christ is to be honored as the Father is honored

Then Christ is not a creature,

But the Creator.

The Jews expected the Messiah to be a great and powerful Prince

To free them from Roman tyranny.

They never thought he would come

In the attributes of the Godhead.

To teach them Jesus goes one to:

III. JESUS' MISSION DEFINED

²⁴"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. John 5:24

Jesus said to them "I am the messiah, I hold the keys to heaven and hell, I control the door to eternal life or eternal condemnation."

Jesus clarified the way to salvation.

**Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life
And will not be condemned: John 5:24**

The key to crossing over is in this verse:

Whoever hears.

Friends are we listening?

To hear is to understand

Not in a doubting or speculative way,

but **internally**

To understand it spiritually.

to approve of it,

accept it and

move to implement it in our lives.

Whoever hears

How well do you hear?

Mother Teresa was ministering to some of the neediest people on earth. She went into one hovel where she could see the hollowness of the children's eyes and the starvation in the parents. They had not eaten in days. Mother Teresa had brought to the family a small portion of rice. When she presented the rice to the mother, the mother divided it into two equal parts, and then rose to leave the room.

Mother Teresa asked: "Where are you going?"

The woman answered, "Next door, they are hungry also."

That mother not only understood her hunger,

But she understood the hunger of her neighbor.

How well do we understand our need for Christ in our sinful state,

And our neighbors need for Christ in their sinful state?

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who 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. John 5:24rsv

Jesus was trying to get the Jews to hear and understand

that he was the Savior.

Simply and wonderful, the true lamb of God

But Jesus doesn't end it there,

He goes on to say:

²⁵I tell you the truth, 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. John 5:25

How can dead men hear?

How can the deceased live again?

They can by the power in Jesus name.

²⁶For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. ²⁷And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

Death is the country where every Christ less soul lives

And weeping and wailing is its national anthem.

The man who knows not God lives a dying life, or a living death;

but he who believes in the Son of God
passes over from the empire of death,
 to the empire of life.

We have a resurrection now...
 When we accept Christ we are made alive from the eternal death
 And we have a resurrection later...
 Christ in us when we are raised alive from the natural death.

**²⁸"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves
 will hear his voice ²⁹and come out--those who have done good will rise to live, and
 those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.**

What about you today?
 Are you listening?
 Have you heard and believed?
 It is time to decide!

Don't be like the fraternity boys at the Christmas parade in central North Carolina? Many elaborate floats passed by when suddenly a simple hay wagon pulled by a tractor went by. On the wagon were several fraternity boys from the university. They were madly sawing boards and nailing things together. The puzzled expressions of the onlooker's faces changed to laughter when they read the sign on the back of the wagon. It read: "We thought the parade was next week!"

Isn't that just how it is?
 There is a time to prepare,
 And there is a deadline to meet.
 After which nothing you do will matter.
 Either you're ready or you're not!

Friends, Christ has come and it is time to be ready.
 To hear and believe and have eternal life.
 We will only find Life Through the Son.