

43. The Gospel of John—5:24-26

“Jesus Declares His Divinity” Pt.5

(9/16/18)

We are currently in chapter 5 in our study of John’s gospel—in a series we’ve entitled, *“Jesus Declares His Divinity.”*

When John opened his gospel, he stated clearly and definitively that Jesus was (and is) God in human form—

John 1:1, 14 (NKJV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

As we have been saying in this series, this is not an inconsequential truth—our eternal destiny hangs in the balance when it comes to our understanding of Who Jesus is—as He Himself said in John 8:24 (recite)

In John’s gospel chapter 5 verses 17 thru 30—Jesus makes 5 claims to His own divinity, 5 claims of equality with the God the Father—

I. Jesus Claims Equality with God in His Person—v.17-18

II. Jesus Claims Equality with God in His Work—v.19

III. Jesus Claims Equality with God in His Power Over Life and Death—v.20-21

IV. Jesus Claims Equality with God in His Authority to Judge—v.22, 24-30

V. Jesus Claims Equality with God in Honor—v.23

This is pivotal in that, starting right here, the persecution against Jesus by His enemies begins to ramp up and eventually shifts into ‘high gear’ leading up to His crucifixion.

And most of it was the result of Him going around constantly claiming to be equal with God (the Father)—and as we have repeatedly said, no one can be equal *with God* who is *not God*!

Now, last week in our study we got as far as the fourth main point in our outline—

IV. Jesus Claims Equality with God in His Authority to Judge—v.22, 24-30

John 5:21-22 (NKJV)

²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. ²² For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son...

As we said last time, in verses 21-22, first Jesus claimed equality with the Father in His power to raise the dead—and then He coupled it with a claim of equality with the Father in His authority to judge the world.

And now starting with verse 24 and running thru verse 29—the Lord amplifies this truth by focusing His remarks on the resurrection of the dead and the coming judgment.

As we said last time, Jesus is qualified to sit in judgment over the people of this world for two very important reasons—both of which are rooted in His divinity:

1. He is the Creator

The only Person in the universe who has the right to sit in judgement of the people of this world is the One who created those people and gave them life in the first place—God Almighty and more specifically, Jesus Christ (John 1:3).

2. He is sinless

The only Person who could righteously sit in judgment of mankind was a Man (a descendant of Adam) who Himself was morally perfect and sinless—and that Man of course was Jesus Christ, God in human form—the God-Man!

And so, when Jesus said the Father has given Him the responsibility of judging the people of this world—it was another declaration of divinity because only God has the right to judge.

But once again, resurrection and ultimately judgment are the subjects that are being dealt with by Jesus in John 5:24-29.

John 5:24-29 (NKJV)

²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. ²⁵ Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, 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 to have life in Himself, ²⁷ and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

These verses have been called some of the greatest in the Bible for helping people understand what the Bible teaches about resurrection and the coming judgment.

The Lord Jesus began this passage with the words **“Most assuredly”** drawing attention to the importance of what He was about to say.

Then He added the personal announcement, **“I say to you”** (“I solemnly swear”)

So here Jesus is speaking to all of us in a very personal and powerful way about resurrection.

What's a little confusing and why some misinterpret what Jesus is saying here about the resurrection of the dead is because—there are three different resurrections in view—one spiritual and the other two physical.

A. The Spiritual Resurrection of the Lost—v.24-27

B. The Physical Resurrection of Believers—v.28-29a

C. The Physical Resurrection of Unbelievers—v.29b

A. The Spiritual Resurrection of the Lost—v.24-25

In verses 24-25 Jesus describes the resurrection of the lost to eternal life—which Paul talked about in Ephesians 2:

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ And you *He made alive* [resurrected], who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

So, before we got saved we were only born once (physical birth) 'in Adam' and as the Bible says, "*In Adam all die*" (1Cor.15:22).

And the idea is that lost sinners not only die once *physically*—they also die a second time *spiritually*—

Revelation 21:8 (NLT2)

⁸ "But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur ['lake of fire' or hell]. This is the second death."

Those who are only born once—will die twice (physically *and* spiritually).

Hell is God's final judgment upon unbelievers—His wrath which all those born of Adam will endure for eternity.

This is what Paul meant when he said that unbelievers are “*dead in trespasses and sins*” and referred to them as “*children of wrath*” (Eph.2:1, 3).

In other words, we were born into this world alive physically but dead spiritually (our spirit was dead)—ever since Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden.

God had warned both him and Eve that “*the soul that sins will surely die*”—Gen.3:3. (Explain)

All unbelievers have God's wrath hanging over them—they are not ‘good people’ on their way to heaven, they are condemned sinners on their way to hell—

John 3:17-18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

But when a person receives Jesus into their heart as Savior and Lord—they are ‘born-again’.

As Paul went on to say in 1Corinthians 15:22—“*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*”

This means that the Christian has experienced two births—one physical and the other spiritual.

In reality, their ‘dead spirit’ has now been resurrected—which is what Jesus was referring to when He said in John 5:25, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live [be resurrected to new life in Christ].**”

1. “He who hears My word”—v.24

The “**word**” that Jesus is referring to is the gospel.

To “**hear**” the gospel of Jesus doesn’t just mean to hear with your ears.

There are many people that have *heard* the gospel preached many times but have never done anything about it.

Apparently, they didn’t think it important enough to give it any consideration and so they ‘heard’ but didn’t ‘*listen*’ if you will.

On several different occasions after making a critical point with regard to salvation Jesus said, “*He who has ears to hear let him hear.*”

This was His way of saying, “*For those of you that have open hearts, don’t let what I have just said go in one ear and out the other—listen with your heart not just your ears and do something about what I am saying.*”

And just what did Jesus want them (and all people) to do with His gospel presentation? —He wanted them to believe!

2. “And believes in Him who sent Me”—v.24

Is Jesus speaking ‘generically’ here that anyone who simply believes in ‘God’ is saved and going to heaven?

Of course, He didn’t mean just believing *intellectually* that God exists will get a person into heaven.

Many people believe that God is real but are not saved—even the demons believe and tremble James tells us.

No, the idea here is that a person must believe ‘with their heart’ that the true and living God of the Bible sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world.

Yes, but what must they believe?—that God sent Jesus into the world to be our Savior.

To be saved, a person must believe what God says about His Son Jesus Christ—that He is God the Son, second Person of the Trinity, the great ‘I AM’ (John 8:24), and the only way to the Father (heaven)—

John 14:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me [thru His sacrifice on the cross for our sins].

John 1:12 (NKJV)

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

John makes a point to say that a person must *believe* in and *receive* Jesus into their heart as Lord and Savior to be saved.

True saving faith is not mere mental assent (believing the facts about Christ) but believing to the point of commitment—like when you believed the person you were dating was THE ONE and you ‘believed’ to the point of making a commitment to that person in marriage. (Elaborate about making a commitment to Jesus)

What if I were to ask you, “*Do you have a relationship with Jesus?*” And you said, “*Well I go to church.*”

“*That’s not what I’m asking you—do you have a personal relationship with Jesus?*”—“*I think so.*”

What if I asked you if you were married—would you say “*I think so?*”—that would be weird!

Just like a person knows whether or not they’re married—so a person knows whether or not they have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

If you’re not sure—you probably don’t!! (Elaborate)

And if you do, that relationship is then affirmed and demonstrated thru obedience. (Matt.7:21-28; John 10:27)

3. “Has everlasting life”—v.24

John 5:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me **has everlasting life**...

Notice the Lord doesn’t say that he who believes *will have* everlasting life (someday when they die)—but that he or she *has it* the moment they believe the gospel and receive Jesus as their Savior.

Everlasting life is really the life of Jesus that comes inside of us through the indwelling Holy Spirit when we receive Him as our Lord and Savior.

This life is eternal because Jesus, Who lives inside of us, is eternal—

1 John 5:11-13 (NLT2)

¹¹ And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God’s Son does not have life. ¹³ I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.

Everlasting life isn't just a quantity of life—it is also a quality of life. (Explain)

4. “And shall not come into judgment”—v.24

John 5:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, **and shall not come into judgment...**

This is a promise from the Judge Himself—the Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:22).

Jesus is saying that once you belong to Him all your sins have been washed away by His blood, your account has been marked ‘paid in full’—therefore there is nothing left for God to judge you for (Col. 2:13-14).

Since your penalty has already been paid by Jesus—He does not require that our sins be paid for again, therefore—the Christian will never be sent to hell.

Now that's the absence of the negative—but the Lord goes on to give us the presence of the positive—

5. “But has passed from death into life”—v.24

Again, before we got saved we were dead spiritually (separated from the life of God).

Once we put our faith in Jesus we were born again (made alive spiritually) and at that instant we passed out of the state of spiritual death where God's wrath was upon us—and we were placed into the state of spiritual life where the blessings of being God's children are now upon us.

And once we have eternal life we will never be judged with the wicked and sent to hell—

John 10:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish (in hell); neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand (absolute eternal security).

John 5:25-26 (NKJV)

²⁵ Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, 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 to have life in Himself...

When Jesus said “**the hour was coming and now is**”—He wasn’t referring to a literal hour of sixty minutes, but to a special time in history.

He was saying that the time was coming—and had already arrived for His coming onto the stage of human history.

Galatians 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman...

So once again the ‘**dead**’ in verse 25 is a reference to unbelievers—those that are *spiritually* dead in trespasses in sins.

They hear the voice of the Son of God when the gospel is preached—and if they accept the message and receive the Savior—then they pass from death into resurrection life.

So, the first resurrection that Jesus speaks of is the resurrection of lost souls at the moment of salvation.

This resurrection is going on now, every day all around us—in fact, all around the world wherever the gospel is preached, and people put their faith in Jesus Christ they are raised from being dead in trespasses and sins to new life in Christ.

That then sets the stage for the last two resurrections that Jesus speaks about in John 5:28-29.