

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN SESSION 6

Review: Last time we finished chapter 4 and got halfway through chapter 5. We learned about the nobleman's son that was healed by just a word from Jesus. We also learned about the man that had been lame for 38 years that was healed by the pool of Bethesda on the sabbath day. The Pharisees saw that man carrying his bed and accused him of breaking the sabbath, then when they learned it was Jesus who had healed him they accused him also. Jesus made the statement "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work". That sent them into a frenzy because he claimed God for his Father, making himself equal with God. Jesus pointed them to his works as a testimony to the fact that God was his Father. He told them that the judgment of all men had been committed to him by the Father so that the Son would be honored as the Father.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. *Everlasting life was given to people during Jesus's ministry by faith in who he was, his message and that he came from the Father. This was before his death, burial and resurrection.*

John 5:25-27 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. *The "dead" he is referring to in that verse is not physically dead people but SPIRITUALLY dead. The lost are referred to as "dead" because their spirit is dead in trespasses and sins. In scripture "hearing" includes obedience.* **Jeremiah 35:13** Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will ye not receive instruction to hearken to my words? saith the LORD. **1 Samuel 15:22** And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

The Father has given the Son the ability to give life to the dead and that life comes out of himself through the Spirit of God - **Ephesians 2:1** And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

John 5:28-29 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. *Christ makes a*

*distinction here between the spiritually dead he just talked about, and the physically dead. "For the hour is coming" not here yet, "in which all that are IN THE GRAVES shall hear his voice, and shall come forth". Only some of the spiritually dead will hear his voice, and they that do will live. But ALL the physically dead shall hear his voice and come forth from the graves. Many people use this verse to teach what's called a "general resurrection". That doctrine is that the resurrection is singular and everyone gets up at the same time and then a separation occurs between the wicked and the just. Most if not all people who believe in the general resurrection do so because they are amillennial and don't believe in the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. If this verse was all we had to go on, they would be right BUT the Bible is a progressive revelation, and it clearly teaches two separate resurrections. One for the saints and one for the sinners with a thousand years between the two: **Revelation 20:4-5** And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. *The first resurrection is in three parts like an Old Testament crop. The first fruits, the harvest, and the gleanings. When Christ arose, he was the first fruits and those with him on resurrection Sunday. The rapture will be the harvest that sees dead saints raised and living saints translated, and the gleaning will be the tribulation saints that are raised just before the millennial kingdom. The lost are raised after the millennial kingdom - **Revelation 20:11-13** And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.**

John 5:30-32 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. *Jesus declares total dependence on God the Father, stating his judgment is just because he acts in perfect alignment with the Father's will, not his own. He acknowledges the legal principle that a single witness (even himself) is not considered sufficient proof under Jewish law. He points to another (the Father) who bears witness to his identity. This shifts the focus from his own words to the divine testimony affirming his ministry.*

John 5:33-35 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. *John the Baptist also bore witness to Christ as the Son of God that came down from heaven and the Lamb of God which takes away the sins of the world. Jesus didn't need John's endorsement but only pointed to it to help the people come to salvation.*

John 5:36 But I have greater witness than *that* of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. *Not only did he have the witness of the Father and John, but the works themselves were a witness to who he was.*

John 5:37-38 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. *It is impossible to know the Father apart from the Son. Jesus said no man could come to the Father but through him so anyone claiming to know God intimately while rejecting Jesus Christ was deceived and a liar. The Lord was telling religious professionals to their face that they didn't know God at all!*

John 5:39-40 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. *The Jews believed because they possessed the scriptures that gave them eternal life. They had the letters but missed the message! The Bible is the book about Christ from beginning to end. If you read the Bible and miss Christ, you missed the whole point. The scriptures contain types and shadows of him, Old Testament appearances of him, promises and prophecies concerning him, his birth, life, ministry, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and promise to come again, and Revelation is his unveiling to the world and the eternal ages that follow.*

John 5:41-42 I receive not honour from men. But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. *He exposes that their focus is on human praise rather than divine approval. That was the root cause of their inability to believe in him and revealed that all their religious works were for self-righteousness, not because of their love for God.*

John 5:43-44 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only? *Jesus came to glorify the Father, not himself. When the antichrist shall come, he will come in his own name and be received. Pursuing human approval and praise makes true saving faith in the Lord impossible... "How can ye believe". According to respected pastor Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones,*

this desire for human honor is a form of sin and spiritual blindness that makes it impossible to believe in Christ. The Bible calls it “the pride of life” and it’s most deadly to people who care more about what people think about them than what God knows about them.

John 5:45-47 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is *one* that accuseth you, *even* Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words? *These people worshiped Moses and trusted in him for salvation. They proudly said “we be Moses’s disciples” but he will actually accuse them in the day of judgment for not believing on Jesus Christ because Moses prophesied about him.* **Acts 3:22-23** For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Tonight’s application: John 5:41 *I receive not honour from men.* Jesus was crystal clear that what he was doing was not his will, but the Father’s. He declared total dependence on Him and gave Him all the glory for everything done. There are times we need to stop, reflect and evaluate why we’re doing what we’re doing. Most of the time, you can’t have the approval of people and the Father too. The gospel of John reveals how that Christ did the will of the Father and made many people angry simultaneously. Sometimes we can be deceived by doing our will in the Father’s name, instead of truly doing His will. Stephen preached only one message recorded in scripture to the same council that condemned Christ to death. He faced them with their rejection of their Messiah and his death and gave powerful witness to his resurrection. They stoned him to death for it but Christ was standing up in approval of his message - **Acts 7:54-56** When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. **Acts 7:59** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. *Are we committed to pleasing the Father to the point of being hated?* The Lord Jesus absolutely was