

#19 – John 5:25-32

Need: To hear and understand new revelation about the Son's mission and end times.

Aim: To hear and heed the words of Jesus concerning manner of life and choices made in life.

Title: "Jesus Brings Life"

Prop: In Jn. 5 Jesus established His authority to **I. Execute Judgment – Jn. 5:25-29** as an extension of the Father's will who bears witness to the **II. Truth of Jesus' Words – Jn. 5:30-32** which can either bring life or death totally dependent upon our response.

Intro: In verses 25-32, Jesus continued to speak to the religious leaders to assert His authority as the Son of God. In His own words, Jesus was giving those who sought to kill Him ammunition for the charge of blasphemy if His words were not true. Of course they were working from the presupposition that Jesus was not God, regardless of the evidence offered which clearly proved His claim to deity. The attitude was one of: **"Don't let the evidence confuse my conviction."**

Right after graduation a former classmate in college, married a man that everyone looked up to as a spiritual individual. He was well respected and possessed an abundance of spiritual gifts, both in the pulpit and as a people person. Not long after the wedding, in a new church setting, she began to see the dark side of her husband. Without going into detail, after three kids she had had enough of his bad behavior, verbal and emotional abuse, she divorced him and left, taking her three children with

her. During this ordeal, she began to question her faith in God and in the process cast it all aside and eventually finding her way into Buddhism.

The break began when she had serious doubts about the veracity of God's Word, especially her view of the wife's role which was warped. She studied a series of books which supported her thoughts, which in her set mind was one of escape. There was an erosion of the authority of God's word. Her conclusion was that the Bible was a mere collection of chauvinistic writers who wrote purely for the purpose of keeping women under bondage. Her viewpoint and mindset when beginning her investigation was to look for proof for her disillusionment; and through faulty scholarship and interpretation she found it. She failed to delve into the logical process of revelation and the formation of what we know as the Bible. This proven science is known formally as Textual Criticism. It was the study of the science of the determination of the content of the book we know as the Bible. There are certain criteria applied to the text of God's Word and of all the manuscripts. Only 66 were chosen as meeting all the criteria as God's inspired Word. She failed to see both sides of the issue and based her new found belief upon the words of failed and horribly flawed scholarship. She now possesses the mindset of **“Don't confuse me with facts and truth; my mind is made up.”**

Prop: In Jn. 5:25-32, Jesus sought to establish His authority to I. Execute Judgment – Jn. 5:25-29 as an extension of the Father’s will who bears witness to the II. Truth of Jesus’ Words – Jn. 5:30-32 which can either bring life or death, totally dependent upon your response.

In this passage, Jesus began a defense of His person and ministry by the presentation of evidence from four corroborating sources. Jewish law required only three witnesses for facts in question to be considered as true.

I. Execute Judgment – Jn. 5:25-29

A. Connective Tissue (19-24)

1. Situation – In verse 18, of chapter 5, Jesus began a lengthy address about His person, the origin of His teaching and His authority to do what He was doing as given to Him by His Heavenly Father. Jesus had the authority of God, not only as God Himself, but authority on earth given Him by His Heavenly Father. The verification of this transfer was visibly witnessed by His miraculous signs and wonders.

2. Bearing Witness – Beginning with the healing of the lame man, the religious leaders confronted Jesus about His words claiming to be God and His breaking the Sabbath. Jesus discarded the Sabbath issue as meaningless at this point.

In response to the false charge of blasphemy, Jesus spoke these words about Himself beginning in verse 18. In verse 25, Jesus offered witnesses of His person, giving four credible witnesses. In verses 25-32 Jesus offered His Heavenly Father as His foremost witness.

Transition: As proof of possessing His Father’s authority and blessing and authority Jesus offered these words, beginning in verse 25.

B. Revelation About Resurrection (25-29)

1. Resurrection to Life (25) – In verse 25, Jesus began His statements about resurrection with a Jewish idiom, “**Truly, truly.**” Jesus used these words to signify the importance of what He was about to say, and also that what He preached was doubly true. The term was employed for the purpose of lending weight to what He said. It was of great importance and bore witness to the veracity of what He preached.

The revelation was about the end of time. A time is coming when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and will be brought back to life. This truth was built upon by the Apostles’ writings: Paul, Peter and John all explained the manner of these words in their letters to the early church. Without the truth of revelation of the Resurrection of Jesus, what is the point? Paul spent all of chapter 15 in the book of I Corinthians, making the same point. **“If Jesus be not raised from the dead, we have no hope!**

We are to be most pitied among men because we have believed in something that is not true!”

Sometimes the challenges of life overwhelm me and the result is despair and deep depression. The thing that breaks this cycle is the truth of Resurrection; there is life for daily needs in the Resurrection, the hope and certainty of eternal life. It is the hope of all Christians. No matter how dark life might seem, there is a light in the distance, the hope of eternal life. How close that light comes is purely up to us. For the light is fixed, the movement must be on our part. The closer we come the brighter the purifying light of God’s presence.

2. The Power of Resurrection (26-27) – Jesus, in verses 26-27, continued on this theme of Resurrection in that all life comes from God the Father, who then gave the power of life to His Son Jesus. He; who died and came back to life, now has the authority to give that same Resurrection life to those who believe. Truth is not a set of ideas, truth is found in Jesus! Life is not just a state of being; it is found in the person of Jesus. He said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes unto the Father but through Me.”**

Transition: Not only was the power of resurrection given to Jesus, but in verse 27, He had been given the right of judgment to determine who gets life and who gets death.

3. Judgment Rendered (28-29) – In seed form, Jesus presented the revelation of eternal judgment. It was a time which John fleshed out in his Book of Revelation. Jesus spoke about a time of judgment coming, given to Him by His Father. When the hour strikes, there will be two resurrections. In John's book he presented two distinct events: **(1) The Judgment Seat of Christ** which will be for all believers and **(2) The "Great White Throne Judgment,"** for all people from Adam until time is no more. Everyone will be raised from the dead. The Christian to eternal life and unbelievers will rise to eternal judgment. We have the choice in this life. But once dead our choice is sealed. There are no zombies, or contact with the dearly departed in this life. Hebrews says, that **"It is appointed to man once to die than the judgment."** Such things are purely satanic in nature for the purpose of deception. Ghost Hunters and other supernatural popular programming are not true. Any physical evidence is sketchy at best but any visible evidence is satanically based. Once dead, a person can't come back.

Verse 29 points out the criteria, **"good deeds"** and **"evil deeds."** In Paul's epistles, he clearly expanded on Jesus' words here teaching that only

those in Christ can do good deeds which are acceptable to God. All else is worthless. Those outside of Christ can never be good enough to make themselves acceptable to God.

Transition: Having given revelation about the end of life and what awaits those who trust Christ as Savior and those who reject Him, as the religious leader were doing, Jesus in verses 30-32, reasserts His source of authority.

II. Truth of Jesus' Words – Jn. 5:30-32

A. God's Will (30-31)

1. The Father Bears Witness (30) – In verse 30, Jesus appealed to His Father's will as the source of His earthly ministry. His role as Judge is just because God is just, and Jesus' judgment is based upon the will of God, the One who sent Him.

I can just imagine the anger of the Pharisees at this point, as Jesus' words point to the source of His work. His Heavenly Father. In the mind of the Jews, Jesus was boldly proclaiming that He was God in the flesh.

2. Confirmation – Jesus revealed the coming agenda of the end of the world. John, in the Book of Revelation gave much more detail. Jesus will call home His church, which will bring about the 7 years of Tribulation. Jesus will come in power and glory and vanquish human and satanic forces.

He will rule the world for a 1,000 years. At that point there will be one more rebellion, which will be quenched; and then the Great White Throne of final judgment. All mankind outside of Christ will be raised from the dead and those alive upon the earth who participated in the final rebellion will be judged. All will receive the same sentence; eternal death, outcast from the presence of God, suffering eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire with Satan and his angels, always burning but never consumed. I know that is not politically correct, but these are Gods' words not mine. As a preacher I am charged to present the truth without any compromise.

B. Three Prolonged Verification (31-32)

1. Personal Testimony (31) – If Jesus was saying all these things of His own accord without any outside verification, His words could simply be discarded as the rantings of a crazy man. Even his family for a time believed He was crazy.

2. More Testimony (32) – Beginning here in verse 32, Jesus began to present witnesses that verified what He said and who He was. Jesus was confirmed as to His nature, His purpose, and His work for which He came. Verification came from an unassailable witness.

So how does this apply to me? John put this portion of scripture into his gospel as proof that Jesus was not some lunatic, but was the true Son of

God, God in human form. His words are true about the need of all mankind. He died for all sin; but it is only appropriated to those who believe.

Unbelief comes in many forms. Some believe that there is no God, and creation is just a product of time plus chance. In their mind it removes all responsibility to a Creator. The fact that one refuses to acknowledge God does not diminish His existence. At one point in time, all will believe in the existence of God. Sadly it will be too late for many.

The second form of unbelief is that though one believes in God, it doesn't have any effect on their awareness of His presence nor produce responsibility to that Creator. Creation and creative order scream the existence of God, but to no effect. Some people just don't care to know God.

The most insidious form of unbelief is in those who confess some sense of spiritual awareness, even believing that Jesus was the Son of God, but nevertheless give no credence to His words and commands. Belief in Jesus is not enough. Let me be careful here because I am not advocating works. I am saved purely as an act of God. But if one confesses Jesus yet there is no lifestyle change, no fruit, there is no life. Faith that doesn't change you will not save you. Many people sit in church thinking everything is okay. Life goes on like it always has until crisis or disaster hits

and we are shaken by great challenges in life. Will your faith in God sustain you at the point of need? Many of us live in the fantasy world where God is like a fire extinguisher – **“break glass in time of need.”** When the situation is resolved, we put God back in the box replace the glass and move until the next disaster, which will surely come.

Then there is the resurrection issue. Believers will be raised to life prior to God’s great day of judgment upon the earth; seven years of the Great Tribulation, with its rampant evil and physical destruction. Then after the thousand year reign of Christ, there will be a final rebellion of mankind which Jesus will crush; and a resurrection of all mankind outside of Christ. The gavel will fall with the verdict of guilty and all will be cast into the Lake of Fire to spend an eternity apart from God, in a body which is always burning but never consumed. But we have an opportunity in this life to make a choice. Will you choose to live forever in the presence of God or spend and eternity in the Lake of Fire?

“Jesus Brings Life – Jn. 5:25-32

- In verses 25-32, Jesus continued to speak to the religious leaders to assert His authority as the Son of God.
- In His own words, Jesus was giving those who sought to kill Him ammunition for the charge of blasphemy if His words were not true.

In Jn. 5, Jesus established His authority to I. Execute Judgment – Jn. 5:25-29 as an extension of the Father’s will that bears witness to the II. Truth of Jesus’ Words – Jn. 5:30-32 which can either bring life or death totally dependent upon our response.

I. Execute Judgment – Jn. 5:25-29

A. Connective Tissue (19-24)

1. Situation
2. Baring Witness

B. Revelation About Resurrection (25-29)

1. Resurrection to Life (25)
2. The Power of Resurrection (26-27)
3. Judgment Rendered (28-29)

II. Truth of Jesus’ Words – Jn. 5:30-32

A. God’s Will (30-31)

1. The Father Bears Witness (30)
2. Confirmation

B. Three Prolonged Verification (31-32)

1. Personal Testimony (31)
2. More Testimony (32)