
John 5:17-39

(Basic Bible in English)

This incident we're going to talk about happened about 18 months before Jesus Christ's crucifixion. John is really starting to open up about the gospel to the people. He got down on the religious leaders, who are bad because they push man's religion, a twisted version of Jesus Christ's teachings, and ruined many lives. They are religious hypocrites. They are modern day Pharisees. They say if you don't follow their rules, you won't get to God.

John 5:17 ¶ But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Jesus Christ had just healed a man who couldn't walk for 30 years and was at the pool to get healed. Jesus healed one man that day. Jesus didn't just heal him; He told the man to get up and bring his bed with him.

18 Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. The Jews want to kill Jesus Christ because He claims to be equal with God.

19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things so ever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. Listen up! Pay close attention whenever a statement is started with "verily, verily". This means the following is very important. Jesus was here to show us who the Father is. He showed the Father in his life, statements, and behavior. He says He looks to the Father for guidance.

20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. Jesus said if you think you've seen something great now, just wait. Greater things are coming that will blow your mind.

21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. "Quickeneth" means "make alive; bring to life". Jesus didn't bring all the dead back to life. He just picked a few.

22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: At work when you have a confrontation with a coworker, always remember how Jesus Christ handled Himself. Seek out Jesus handled all these confrontational issues and you will have the exact answer about how to handle these sticky situations. All judgment is given to Jesus Christ because He is the only one of the trinity who has come to earth in a human body and experienced firsthand all the temptations that exist on earth. We fail over and over, but He conquered each and every temptation that we could come up against. He is the best qualified to judge us as individuals. He will do the judgment with an understanding heart.


23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. Jesus is telling the Jewish crowd here that if they don't honor Him, they are not honoring the Father.

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. Salvation doesn't get any plainer here. You believe on Jesus, you are saved, period, end of story. You don't have to do any work or go through any ceremony. You just have to believe on Him.

25 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. Everything said here is so important. Listen, I'm here (Jesus Christ), and the dead will hear my voice and live again. People will come out of cemeteries, out of their graves, and live again.

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; The Father has everlasting life, life that doesn't end. This is referring to the spiritual life, not the physical life of the body.

27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Among other things, Jesus Christ was down here on earth to execute judgment and usher in the church.



28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, We should look for the rapture of the church everyday. This is our blessed hope.

29 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. This is talking about works, in the context of those who don't believe they are doing evil works. You can't be a non-believer and get into heaven and have everlasting life even if you helped people everyday, were unselfish, and as nice as can be. Without belief in Jesus Christ, you don't get salvation or eternal life.

30 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. Jesus Christ was always continually saying, I'm here to do the will of the Father.

31 ¶ If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. Jesus says, If I just did what I wanted, it wouldn't be right.

32 There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. Jesus is talking about John the Baptist here.

33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.

35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. You came out in droves and got baptized by John; you thought he was great!

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.

37 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.

38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Jesus says I'm here, I'm telling you the truth, I have greater authority than John the Baptist, but you're not listening to me.

39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. Search the scriptures like you're on a treasure hunt, like your life depends on it. Read and study with great intensity and concentration. There is a trail of Christ that starts in Genesis and ends in Revelation. You will find Him throughout the entire bible.