

JOHN 5 AND THE GOSPEL

April 10, 2022

We are talking about the gospel, and when I say gospel, there are two ways to define it. The word gospel can refer to the four gospels, to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are the biographies of Jesus Christ. Now you learn about Christ from the Old Testament, and from the epistles, but the gospels are the best place to learn about Him. The word gospel also refers to the message of Christ. The word gospel means good news, and the good news of Christ is that He saves us from sin and death and gives us a new life.

- And we are going through the gospel of John so we can learn more about the gospel of Jesus, the message of salvation. And as we go through the gospel of John, we see that there are many things to learn about the gospel of Jesus, this message of salvation.

Now we've looked at John 3 and John 4 and today we want to look at John 5.

John 5:1-16. This passage is how Jesus heals a man who had been sick for 38 years, and He comes along and He heals this man. Let me point out some things from these verses.

1. This healing by Jesus is truly a miracle of God, and it results in complete healing.
2. Vs. 14 - This man's sickness resulted from sin. This may have a specific meaning, that a consequence of this man's sin was that he was lame. Or it can have a general meaning, that all sickness is a result of sin. And it's true that because of sin there's sickness and death.
3. The works Jesus did was evidence, was proof that He was not just a man, but was God in the flesh. John 20:30-31. God wanted people to see or hear about these miracles so they'd believe Jesus was both God and man, and could therefore save us from our sins.
4. Jesus did this miracle on the Sabbath and the legalistic Jews did not like that He did that, and were therefore, persecuting Him.

John 5:17-24. This passage is how Jesus is God and was perfectly united with God the Father in carrying out His purposes. Let me share the main points from these vss.

1. The Father loves the Son, and they had a wonderful, glorious, and perfect relationship, and were always communicating with each other, and were always united with each other.
2. This relationship that the Father and the Son had was a relationship with a purpose. They had a purpose to accomplish, and it was the work of saving people from their sin.
3. Jesus and His Father were both working, and they were always working, and they always worked together, and they were perfectly united in their working. They were a perfect team. Their primary work is stated here. They saved people and judged people. They saved people they chose to save, and judged people who rejected Jesus. Now the Father delegated the work of saving, of giving life, to Jesus. And He also delegated the work of judging to Jesus. In fact, Jesus didn't do anything unless the Father was doing it, unless it was the Father's desire, the Father's plan, and the Father wanted Him to carry it out. This shows the Father's leadership, and Jesus' humility, His submission to His Father.

4. God the Father's ultimate purpose was that His Son would be honored, would be glorified. The Father knew that if Jesus was honored, then He'd be honored too. Indeed, there was no jealousy or competition between them. They both wanted the other to be glorified. John 17:1-3

5. John 5:24. This is a great gospel verse, and what can we learn from it?

1. A person must hear, must hear the word, with the ears and hear with the heart, and therefore, he can understand the word, that is, the gospel message.

2. Again, we see the unity, the working together of the Father and the Son. You see, when we believe in Jesus, we are also believing in the Father, for they are one, they work together, and are united in their purpose of saving us. John 3:16-17
This is a profound truth, for there's no other religion where God is a Trinity, where there is God the Father, God the Son, and let me add, God the Holy Spirit, and they are perfectly working together in the salvation of souls.

3. The person who hears and believes in the Father and in Jesus has eternal life – he has an eternal relationship with God. He passes from death to life and has eternal life. He's always saved, he always has this life, and he can never lose his salvation.

4. The person who hears and believes will never be judged for his sins, for Christ Himself paid for our sins, and so we don't have to pay, to be judged for our sins. Rom. 5:8

5. The verbs "hear", "believes", and "has" are all present tense. This means that once we believe, as soon as we believe, we obtain salvation - it's instantaneous. It doesn't say that a person who hears and believes will receive eternal life, but that he has eternal life. That is, receiving salvation, being born again, becoming a child of God, does not take place when we die, it happens during our life on earth. Catholic – my testimony

John 5:25-30. Let me mention a number of points from this passage.

1. Those who are dead and who hear the voice of Jesus will live. The word "dead" refers to those who are spiritually dead, who don't have God's life in them. The word "live" refers to those who are spiritually alive, who have the life of God in them.

2. It says the "hour is coming and now is" when we will live. The words "now is" refers to being spiritually alive, and like we saw in vs. 24, it's in the present tense meaning that it happens now, during our life here on earth. "The hour is coming" refers to when we get our brand-new bodies, when we're physically perfect, which happens at Christ's coming.

John 5:28. The phrase, "the hour is coming" appears again and expands on what we read in vs. 25 and refers to a future time when there'll be a resurrection of life and of judgment. The resurrection of life refers to believers being glorified, which happens when Christ comes back, at the time of the rapture. At that time, believers will receive a brand-new glorified body, one that's perfect, powerful, and immortal. The resurrection of judgment is referring to a future time when unbelievers will receive a resurrected body, one that's gross and hideous, and is suitable for an eternity of punishment.

3. The phrase "good deeds" does not mean that we are saved by our good deeds, but that a person who's saved will be doing good deeds. Now an unsaved person does only evil deeds, and will be judged and punished accordingly. Rom. 2:1-11

4. All that the Son has and possesses is because the Father gives it to Him. The Son then has life that He can give to those who are spiritually dead. And the Son has authority to judge because the Father gives that authority to Him. And in all this, we are seeing the unity and close working relationship the Father has with the Son.

5. All that the Son can do is because of the Father. Jesus said, "*I can do nothing on My own initiative.*" The Father is the leader, the One who directs what Jesus is to do. Indeed, this shows how Jesus is completely and perfectly humble towards His Father. Now Jesus is not silent in this relationship. Jesus seeks His Father's will, and at the same time is willing to do whatever His Father wants Him to do. Jesus then never tells the Father what to do, but instead does what the Father tells Him to do. Jn. 7:16, 10:37-38

John 5:31-47 tells us how God is witnessing, is testifying, is declaring the truth about His Son, Jesus Christ. John 5:31 – Jesus said, "*If I testify about myself, My testimony is not true.*" In the KJ it says, "*If I bear witness of Myself, my witness is not true.*" These vss. tell us that the words "bear witness" means the same thing as "to testify". A person who witnesses or testifies is declaring the truth, the facts about a particular event, situation, or person. He is testifying to something that he has seen, heard, or knows. - And a person who witnesses, who testifies, isn't saying something vague, ambiguous or unclear - it's something he really knows, something he believes, is convinced is the truth. He is giving evidence, He is declaring the truth, and his witness is true.

In a court case, you have a witness, and he goes up on the stand, and the judge says to him, "*Do you swear that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?*" And the witness says "*I do.*" He is swearing that he will tell the truth, that he's not going to lie, but that he will be a truthful witness.

In vs. 37, Jesus says that if He testifies about Himself, then His witness is not true. Jesus is not saying that He is not telling the truth if He testifies, but that His witness, His testimony is not sufficient to prove something. Dt. 17:6, 19:15. Jesus knew these vss. about witnesses, and knew that His testimony alone, according to Jewish law, was not sufficient evidence.

And so what you have in vss. 31-47 are five different witnesses. In vs. 31, we read about Jesus' witness. In vss. 33-34, there's John the Baptist's witness. In vs. 36, you read that Jesus' works, that His miracles were evidence, were testimony. In vs. 37, there's the Father's witness, and He Himself is testifying about His Son. In vss. 39-47, there's the witness of God's word, truths in the Old Testament about Jesus.

And God wanted all these witnesses, to testify to the truth about His Son, about Jesus. God wanted people on earth to be convinced that Jesus was the Son of God, that He was God in the flesh, and that He was the Messiah, the Savior, the One who'd save people from their sins. God wanted people to know who Jesus was and know what He was doing. He wanted them to be convinced of the truth of His Son and the truth of the gospel, and these witnesses would help people be convinced of these truths.

This subject of witnesses is a major theme in the gospel of John, and Jn. 5:31-47, focuses on this subject of witnesses, of testimony about Jesus, and this is so important. It was important in Jesus' day and it's important in our time. When you talk to people about Jesus, many of them don't know who He is, and it's your job to tell them about these witnesses who testify to the truth, and who prove who Jesus is and what He did. But there's one more important witness, and it's you. If you talk to someone about Jesus and the gospel, share with them your own testimony. Tell them how Jesus gave you eternal life, and changed your life and gave you love, joy, peace, and purpose.

Vss. 39-47 is how God's word testifies about Jesus. And the Old Testament talks about Jesus, and Jesus and the apostles would share from the OT when talking to people.
- Jesus - Luke 24:25-27, 44-45. Peter - Acts 2:25-28. Paul - Acts 17:1-3, 18:5, 28:23.

And so Jesus was saying that God's word testified about Himself. But what happened is that many of the Jewish leaders would be so consumed with the actual words, so fixated on the words themselves, thinking that knowing the words would make them spiritual, make them righteous, but they didn't focus on the person these words were referring to. This was pride on the Pharisee's part, for they thought they knew so much, and they prided themselves in that, "*Hey, look what I know.*" But they weren't humble and trusting in Jesus. The Scribes and Pharisees knew the OT inside and out, but they did not know Jesus. And Jesus was saying it's not what you know but who you know. 1 Cor. 8:1-3, John 17:3