

Living Life Alive – All Honor to Jesus!
Pastor Brad Shellenberg
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Scripture Reading:

John 5:16-30

¹⁶ So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. ¹⁷ In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” ¹⁸ For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. ¹⁹ Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. ²¹ For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. ²² Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. ²⁴ “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. ²⁵ Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come 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 also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. ³⁰ By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

We will take a few moments to look into the passage that was read for us. There is so much in these verses, but more than anything they point to the glory and worthiness of one person, the Lord Jesus.

If you have a Bible, I invite you to open it to John chapter 5. We picked up the reading of God’s Word at verse 16, which is a continuation of the story that we looked at last week.

Last week we read about Jesus’ visit to the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. There He gave a gift of physical healing to a man who had been lame for 38 years. With just a few words spoken, words filled with divine power, the lame man stood up and walked for the first time in 38 years.

But when the religious leaders of the day heard that Jesus had told the man to pick up his mat and carry it on the Sabbath, they were upset. They failed to realize that the One who gave the command to the man, was the God who gave Sabbath to humankind as a gift in the first place.

In failing to recognize that Jesus had the blessing of God the Father for everything He did, and that all authority on earth would be placed in His hands, they did not honor Him.

The verses we read today are the response of the Lord to reveal who He was to all who would listen. Look at verse 20 again.

John 5:20

²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

1. The Father loves Jesus and includes Him in everything

Everything Jesus did in His work on earth was based on a family relationship. It was not a master sending a servant to save the world. Jesus knew He was loved, and the love was that of a Father.

This last weekend I got to hold my grandson for the first time. And even though I am separated from him by a generation, it was still a lot like holding my own sons.

As much as I am happy for other new parents and grandparents there is a connection with my own family that is just not felt with other children. The closeness of a God who is One God, yet experiences family relation must be closer yet. God, the Father, in that intimacy of relationship, included His Son in everything he did.

In our family we had “family meetings”. They were usually met with groans and sighs from our kids, but meetings were held, none the less. I believed they were important because the details that were discussed enabled us to get everybody where they needed to go and doing the things they needed to do. And sometimes the content was even fun, like discussing a trip we planned to take!

Those times when Jesus snuck away from the crowds that clamored for his time and attention, He was attending a family meeting. What the Father shared with Jesus there was not just so the Lord had enough info to do His work, the time spent sharing was their relationship.

2. Jesus gives life to people as he pleases

John records another way in which Jesus is deserving of honor. We read that in verse 21 . . .

John 5:21

²¹ For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

Jesus has the authority and power to give life to people as He determines. Only God can reverse the outcome of death physically or spiritually so that it becomes life instead, and the Father passed that ability and responsibility to Jesus.

So, He could say, “Come to me for living water”. “Come to me for bread that satisfies”. “Come to me for life . . . I am the resurrection and the life”. And with authority He could stand at the grave of Lazarus and command the man to regain life after he was four days dead.

Speaking new life into things dead and dying was not and is not difficult for Him. Life is His to give away.

3. Jesus judges all people

Jesus was given further honor by His Father as the executive and judicial authority of heaven was conferred on Him. Verse 22-23 . . .

John 5:22-23

²² **Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,**
²³ **that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father.**

One day everyone who has lived will meet Jesus. When they do, when you do, you will be in front of the one who holds the determination of your destiny.

In Matthew chapter 25, Jesus told us that His role at that time will be like a shepherd that separates two separate flocks that have previously been together. For Jesus, there will be no mistakes made. Matthew records that it will be like a shepherd who goes about sorting sheep from goats.

One group will be on his right, the other on his left. And from that moment will begin a separation of peoples. There will be those who are welcomed into eternal life, light and glory, while others find out their destiny is to be away from God and His life, light and glory.

Is it not cause for rejoicing that ahead of time, we have been told how we can become friends and have a first name basis relationship with the judge of our souls?

4. Jesus' voice gives new life today

Yet there is more honor due to Jesus, God's Son, the Lord. For the gift of grace that allows some to walk into new life that is never ending, also comes from Jesus to us. Look at verse 25 . . .

John 5:25

²⁵ ***Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.***

There is a present tense to this good news, that Jesus says it has arrived. It has NOW come. People who have ears to hear and listen will hear the voice of the Son of God calling them. As they listen and respond they will be given life.

The "has now come" part to new life was displayed as in that day, and ever since, people have experienced miraculous healings of their bodies. And it is displayed as people blinded by sin, separated from God, without spiritual life are made alive today.

Not just later when they get to heaven, but the day they believe. At the very moment faith springs to life in their hearts, they begin living life alive. Look back to verse 24 . . .

John 5:24

²⁴ ***Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.***

There is a present day possessing of life that never ends. Eternity, for the child of God, doesn't start later, it begins now. That means that for the soul of the believer, there is no death at all.

Though this physical body will expire, what comes immediately after that will be a change and not really death at all. And with all that blessing comes a bypassing of judgment, because that was taken care of by Jesus, who accepted judgment on our behalf. What an amazing grace!

5. Jesus' voice brings about final resurrection

There is yet one more honor given to Jesus the Son. His will be the voice that calls out and brings about the final resurrection of all human beings. We read this in verses 28-29 . . .

John 5:28-29

²⁸ "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

Clearly this is something that is to come in the future at the time when this present age of grace is concluded. Jesus is the door to eternity. He was quite clear in John 14 that He was and is the one and only way to the Father. All these honors God the Father has given to His Son.

So, in verse 23 John records this . . .

John 5:23

²³ . . . Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

God chose that the way for humankind to receive forgiveness, to be reconciled in relationship with God, to gain entrance into the family of God, and the eternal kingdom of God would all be through Jesus, His Son.

The Scriptures are clear, Jesus is the way, He is the gateway into life, He is the one with living water to give, He is the bread of God that sustains. Everything we have, everything we will need, everything that is gained in eternal life is by and through Jesus.

If the world will not honor Jesus, the Son, they have not given honor to God. If we do not honor Jesus, the Son, we have failed in giving honor and worship to God.

At Parkview we have recognized this by choosing that "worship" be one of our stated values and goals. It is our desire to live for the glory of Jesus. The most obvious expression of worship is to speak or sing it out loud.

But worship is having the reflection of God in our lives when we allow the Holy Spirit to make us more like Jesus. Worship is doing what we see Jesus doing, the same way He said He does what He sees His Father doing.

Worship is humbling ourselves to love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves. Worship is living up to the call to live fully in the light as Jesus is in the light.

We can choose worship to be a personal value, but we can also choose worship for our marriages and for our families. Today is the day, now is the time to dedicate yourself, your life, all you are and have to the glory and honor of the Son of God.

When you have made that choice, today is the day, and now is the time to dedicate your marriage and your family to the worship and honor of Jesus Christ, the Savior and Lord.

One day soon, you will meet Jesus, as will the ones you love most. In that moment all of what this life was about will become crystal clear. We will see in one moment how our lives were not meant for our own personal glory, but for the glory and honor of God through Jesus, His Son.