

The Gospel of John

The Gospel of John

Lesson #50

The Journey

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1

The Gospel of John

- John 5:19 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.”
- Twenty-four times in John’s gospel we read where Jesus says, “Truly, truly” – this phrase is in fact unique to the Gospel of John.
- Jesus does not waste words and you can be sure he was not stuttering when we say, “truly, truly”.

2

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- Truly, in the Greek was the same as the Hebrew word for “Amen” – but is used in different ways.
- To say “Amen” at the end of a prayer or statement is the same as saying, “so be it”.
- To say “Amen” at the beginning of a statement is to say something like, “Pay attention, what I am about to say is true and I have first-hand knowledge of it”.

3

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- When Jesus says, “the Son can do nothing of his own accord” he is underscoring something important for us – there are three persons in the Trinity, but not three wills.
- Jesus could no more do something that would not be what the Father wants than the Father could do something the Son does not want.
- And from reading the whole Bible we know we could “Trinitize” that same equation by adding the Spirit.

4

4

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- John 5:20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.
- Later in chapter 14 Jesus will say something very similar when speaking to his disciples – “whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do.”
- Bad news for the “Jews” – if they thought they were “shown up” by Jesus’ healing the man at the pool, just wait for his “greater” works.

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- Before we talk about his greater works like raising the dead make a note of this phrase, “so that you may marvel”.
- The Father will show the Son greater works so that the “Jews” will sit up and take notice of the obvious truth that Jesus is the Christ.
- This was in fact the primary purpose behind all of Jesus’ miracles – that those who witnessed his power would know he was God.

6

6

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The "Jews" were to marvel, but woe to those who see the goodness and power of God and are unimpressed. A consequence of God's goodness can be the judgment that comes from rejecting it.

7

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- John 5:21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.
- To frame it as giving life to whom he will, makes it sound like Jesus may not be obligated to give life to, or save, just anyone who believes.
- But that would be wrong because if my sins are paid for based upon my faith in Jesus, it would be accurate to say Jesus must save me.

8

8

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- Because my sins were judged when Jesus died on the cross it would be illegal in the courts of Heaven for Jesus not to save me.
- He himself built the legal framework for me to appeal any decision that does not release me from my sin debt.
- I will now speak audaciously – Jesus must forgive me, he has no choice.

9

9

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Is there anything wrong with the argument that, because I believe in him, he must forgive me - he has no choice?

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10

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- John 5:22 For the Father judges no one, but has given 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.
- “the Father judges no one” – evidence of the greater works Jesus will do. It has never been the role of the Father to judge anyone. That falls to the Son.

11

11

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- And why is that the Son is the appointed Judge of the universe?
- So that all may honor (hold in equally high esteem) the Son just as they do the Father who the “Jews” would all loudly claim allegiance to.
- All the “Jews” would herald their reverence for Jehovah and by now they should have found the one in their midst is worthy of the same reverence.

12

12

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The one they saw as their rival, as though he was a man of even lesser standing with God than themselves, turns out to be the one who was so holy they were afraid to say his name (YHWH). They chose to ignore the obvious and instead of their worship they offer him their contempt. They claimed to honor God, but by rejecting the Son, they proved they never really honored the Father either.

13

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- John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
- There are promises to the one who “hears and believes” – the one hears the words of Jesus (the Bible) and believes the testimony of God has eternal life.
- “Has” is intended to show a present possession. If you trust in Jesus you will not be saved - you are saved!!

14

14

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“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

Jesus of Nazareth

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15

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- From this point in the gospels and on, the offer of God only becomes more certain as the rest of scripture was given.
- Salvation, from the point of the fall onward, kept becoming more and more clear as time went by, and God continued to speak.
- And then the day came when God would come in a human body and speak in person.

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Amplified Version Hebrews 1:1-2

God, having spoken to the fathers long ago in the voices and writings of the prophets in many separate revelations each of which set forth a portion of the truth, and in many ways, has in these last days spoken with finality to us in the person of One who is by His character and nature His Son namely Jesus, whom He appointed heir and lawful owner of all things, through whom also He created the universe.

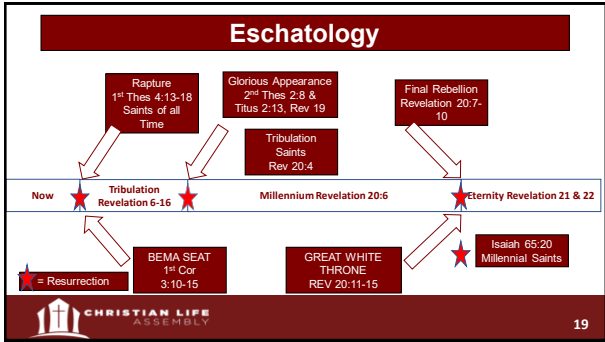
17

Two Separate Resurrections

• John 5:25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, 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 execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

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Questions?

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