

# The Gospel of John

5:24-30

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.

Last week, we were reading of how the Jews were ready to kill Jesus because they thought He broke the Sabbath Day law and made Himself to be equal with God.

✠ **John 5:18** *Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.*

And as we read last week, Jesus testified that He was doing what the Father wanted Him to do and that He imitated God by doing the things He saw God do.

✠ **John 5:19** *Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."*

Which also consisted of raising the dead.

So this week, we will continue to read the further things Jesus had to say to the Jews and us.

✠ **John 5:24-25** *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.*

What did Jesus mean when He said the hour now is, concerning the dead coming back to life? After all, there was no cases of people coming back to life, as we would think Jesus was talking about.

The word death here means: *separation of man from God; Adam died on the day he disobeyed God,*

✠ **Romans 5: 12 & 17-18 (NLT)** *When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.*

*The sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over us, but all who receive God's wonderful, gracious gift of righteousness will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.*

*Yes, Adam's one sin brought condemnation upon everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness makes all people right in God's sight and gives them life.*

Remember Jesus' statement to them in verse 24?

✠ *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

The thing is that the Jews did not believe Jesus' words, nor did they really believe in God. Sure they tried to believe in the God of the Old Testament and they tried their best to follow His laws, but remember we learned that they added to God's law making up their own rules to the point that they were not really following God's law but man's law; and by doing so they were not really believing in the God of the Old Testament, but the God they wanted him to be, and not Who He Was and Is.

By their disbelief in Jesus and the Father they were dead in their trespasses, even though they kept the rituals of offering sacrifices.

✠ *Psalms 51:15-17 O Lord, open my lips,  
And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.  
For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;  
You do not delight in burnt offering.  
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,  
A broken and a contrite heart--  
These, O God, You will not despise.*

Read verse 17 from the NLT to help you understand what God really wants from us.

✠ *Psalms 51:17 (NLT) The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit.  
A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise.*

The Jews were so caught up in works that they didn't do the real works of God, or what God wanted them to do. We know this because this whole chapter started with Jesus healing a man who was lame or sick for over 38 years, and the Jews were not amazed nor did they even glorified God because a man was healed, but rather they cursed and wanted to kill Jesus because He healed on the Sabbath Day.

That's what happens when we start to try to earn our salvation. We start to judge others and look down on others if they are not doing everything just the way we think they should be. We become legalistic and downright mean to others. When we start to try to earn our salvation, we no longer see the lost as those who need Jesus, but we see them as sinners and tell them to stop sinning.

We will tell a co-worker or friend who is not saved to stop living with his girlfriend or her boyfriend because it's wrong and that they will go to hell because they are doing it. So do you think if they no longer lived together that they would now go to heaven? No, in fact it may cause them to reject Jesus even more, because they will see Jesus as full of laws and regulations and not for Who He Is. The One Who died for their sins, not only for the fornication they are committing, but all the other sins they have committed as well.

You see, it's our job to catch the fish, but it's God's job to clean them!

We need to stop trying to clean the fish then catch them.

The Jews were dead in their trespasses just as we were, but thanks be to God we are alive in Jesus Christ because of what He did on the cross.

† **2 Cor 9:15** *Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

The Jews were seeking eternal life in their offering and the things they did, but they just didn't understand that the giver of life was right in front of them and that they wanted to kill Him.

✠ **John 5:26-30** *For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*

Once again, Jesus is speaking of the spiritual death and resurrection, but there was a time when the dead who were in their graves did come back to life.

† **Matt 27:52-53** *and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.*

Now this is no night of the living dead type of appearance, but rather a witness of those who were waiting for the coming of the Messiah and believed in Him.

Also the graves were not like we think of them being buried in the ground, but they were coming out of tombs, just like what Jesus was buried in (for only three days).

Jesus is also speaking of more than the instance we just read about, which happened when He died on the cross. Yes, Jesus is speaking of the judgment of all, great or small, righteous and unrighteous.

† **Rev 20:11-15** *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place*

***for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.***

There are at least two types of books according to the book of Revelation. The first is one we all should be in, which is the Lamb's book of Life. This is where all the names of those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior are written. If your name is there then there is nothing to worry about when you die, because by your name being written in this book, you have put your trust and salvation in the hands of Jesus and believe that He paid for all your sins on the cross.

The second books are ones that have all the works of the people great or small, meaning from the least person to the greatest. Those whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of Life will be judged according to what they have done here on this earth. Notice it says books and not book, which would mean that people would do a lot of things here on this earth, both good and bad. So what will their works be based upon? I believe they will be compared to ten things, and what are the ten things? Very possible the Ten Commandments.

How can I say that? Well, if you take all of God's laws in the bible, which you will find in the books of Exodus to Deuteronomy, they all can be put into one of ten categories, and those ten categories are the Ten Commandments.

To start off with, everyone who is not a believer when they die will fail this commandment, which is:

† ***Deut 6:4-9 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.***

***And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.***

If you rejected Jesus, then you have rejected the Father! In other words, you had no love for God because you didn't love His Son Jesus.

How do I know this? Because you have rejected Jesus calling out to you every time you went to church, every time a believer shared Jesus with you, and every time you read the bible! Each time you felt a tugging on your heart to turn from your sins and give your life to Jesus, but you always said no. Each time you said no, that tugging seemed to be less

and less. What has happened is that your heart has become hardened, almost to the point that you could care less about Jesus, God or anyone else. You are having too much fun and don't want to ruin it with all that religion stuff.

Jesus never asked you to be religious, He has only asked you to accept His death on the cross as payment for your sins, for you to believe that He died for you and rose from the dead on the third day, and to repent, or turn from your sins and turn to Him.

Yes, you will be judged according to the good you have done, maybe you gave to others, whether food or clothing or what have you. Maybe you let a friend stay at your home for a while. Maybe you gave money to different charities. Sure there may have been a lot of good things that you did, but if you compare them to the bad things that you committed there is no comparison. Because all your bad, including all your bad thoughts will outweigh any good you have done by a long shot.

So if you are planning on getting to heaven by the things you are doing, don't expect a reservation to enter heaven to be waiting when you get there.

Also by rejecting Jesus you have not told your family and children about Him and you are allowing them to end up just like you and destined for the same place you are!

† **Matt 10:32-33** *Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*

What about believers, will they be judged for the things they do here on this earth?

The answer is yes, but this judgment will not determine if you get to heaven or not, because we get to heaven based upon what Jesus did, and not what we did.

So then what will this judgment be for?

You will be judged according to what you did here on this earth and your motives behind them.

† **Rev 22:12** *And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.*

After you are judged whatever things you did out of pure motives you will receive a reward for, all others will be lost.

† **1 Cor 3:11-15** *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

† **1 Cor 3:6-8** *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

Here is an example of good and bad works.

Let's say someone comes to your church, like a missionary, and asks for money to help him or her in their work in the mission field. So you, not even thinking about it, pull out your wallet or check book and give to this person to help further the kingdom of God, not ever thinking about the money or getting anything in return. That would be a good thing, which you would probably get a reward for.

But on the other hand if you are giving for a tax write off or desiring to get back from the Lord because you gave, then I think it would be safe to say that your motives are not pure and you are doing it for self-gain. I don't think you will get any reward for this.

† **Luke 6:35-36** *But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.*

But then I can't say for sure what you will be rewarded for under each case and what you won't be rewarded for. Jesus will be the judge, not me.

✎ *I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*

A simple guideline would be, if you were seeking something in return for whatever you do, then it may be best not to do it. But if you are seeking nothing more than the Lord being glorified then I say it would be ok to do it.

I would encourage you to pray and ask the Lord what are the good things you are doing or even the things you want to do that He is happy with. Also ask God to show you where your motives are not right and what you should stop doing.

✎ *I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*

We all have good ideas and thoughts of things we want to do, but we should always seek the Lord and find out what He wants us to do, it may be the same thing or something totally different.

My desire was to be a great musician for the Lord, I haven't gotten there and I may never get there, but I am doing what the Lord wants me to do and that's teach His word.

I think I am just as happy and content if not more so teaching God's word than I would be playing music.

Sure I love to worship the Lord in song and I do it as much as I can (mostly singing along with the CD's), it's not a bad thing or even a bad desire, but I believe I am in the Lord's will by teaching and that is where my joy comes from.

Where has your joy been coming from lately? I pray it's from the Lord because you are in His will and not from the world.

Next week we may finish chapter five?

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may you always be doing what He wants you to do because you love Him!