

# JOHN 5:19-47

## REVIEW...

- **JOHN 5:1-18 - THE POOLS OF BETHESDA...**
  - Jesus returned to Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost...
    - He stopped by the Pools of Bethesda - where the sick waited for the water to 'stir'...
    - He asked a lame man if he wanted to be healed - told him to take up his bed and walk!
  - The religious leaders saw the man 'working' on the Sabbath...
    - The healed man told them it was Jesus who had healed him - told him to carry his bed...
    - So the leaders wanted to kill Jesus for breaking the Sabbath day...

## THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS... (4 THINGS)

- **JESUS ANSWER TO THE LEADERS...**
  - In the other three Gospels we saw Jesus confront the leaders about the Sabbath...
    - But uniquely in John - we have a record of the first time Jesus healed on the Sabbath...
    - And the conversation that followed as Jesus explained His Authority...
  - Jesus was still relatively unknown at this point in His ministry...
    - The Religious leaders up till now had only been curious - and had not confronted Jesus...
    - There were even some - such as Nicodemus - who believed in Jesus...
    - That is why unlike in later encounters where Jesus simply rebukes them - 'Hypocrites'...
    - Jesus takes the time to explain here why He has Authority to heal - even on the Sabbath...
- **1<sup>ST</sup> - THE EXAMPLE JESUS FOLLOWED... VS. 19-23**
  - Jesus opened up by saying - 'I TELL YOU THE TRUTH'...
    - Jesus uses this phrase three times in His explanation to the religious leaders...
    - It is Jesus way of saying that what follows is an ABSOLUTE truth!
  - 'I TELL YOU THE TRUTH' - the Son can only do what He sees the Father do... vs. 19
    - The leaders were upset Jesus had told the lame man to carry his bed on the Sabbath...
      - Jesus defense is was He was only following the example the Father had given to Him...
      - That Father did not stop helping people just because it was the Sabbath...
      - Can you imagine one day a week - God answered no prayers / was not there to help...
      - You 'call up God' and get His 'voice mail' - try again tomorrow!
      - And since the Father set the example of not taking a day off - neither did the Son!
    - Children will follow the example of their Father - **Ephesians 6:1**...
      - Our kids are like sponges – they soak up every word we say...
      - Our kids are like mirrors – they reflect everything we do...
      - Our kids hear us talking / see what we do – and the whole time they are learning...
      - We can choose to show them the ways of the world - or give them a Godly example!
  - The Father Loves the Son... vs. 20-23
    - Jesus points out that the Father shows Jesus EVERYTHING He is doing - nothing hidden...
      - And the Father had shown Jesus even greater things than healing 'a lame man'...
      - So Jesus would also do GREATER works - so that the people would be amazed!

- Including being able to raise people from the dead - power over death!
  - God is able to raise the dead - **I Kings 17** - the widow's son / so Jesus could as well...
  - Although to this point in Jesus ministry He had yet to raise the dead...
  - The widow's son - **Luke 7:11** / Jairus' daughter - **Matthew 9:18** - were not far off...
- Including being able to render judgment for sin...
  - God is ultimately the one who will hold all men accountable for their actions...
  - But He has given to Jesus His authority to execute the judgment of sin...
  - **II Timothy 4:1** - "Christ Jesus... will someday judge the living and the dead..."
  - The reason is so that all men will respect the Son - just as they respect the Father...
  - If anyone does not respect Jesus - as a result does not respect the Father who sent Him!
- Dads want their children to grow up to be respectable men and women...
  - But many Fathers limit their children by keeping things from them...
  - When they go through trials - they put on an act - and pretend everything is ok...
  - But then their kids never get to see how the Lord provides / works in their lives...
  - It is one thing to 'talk about God' to our kids - only hearing about Jesus...
  - It is far more amazing to let our kids see God work in our lives - so they see Jesus...
  - So that they will grow up to be Godly men and women - respected by all...
  - We love our kids - when we show them EVERYTHING - keep nothing hidden!
- **2<sup>ND</sup> - THE REASON WHY JESUS CAME... VS. 24-30 (2 REASONS)**
  - o **1<sup>ST</sup> - The Son came to save those who believe... vs. 24-26**
    - 'I TELL YOU THE TRUTH' - those who believe - have passed from death into life...
      - Jesus did what no one else could - He lived a perfect sinless life...
      - Then Jesus - the only perfect man - paid the price for our sin - Death - **Romans 6:23**
      - **II Corinthians 5:21** - "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."
      - And if we believe His Message - we are forgiven and will stand blameless before God...
      - God will look down on us - and not see our sinful mistakes/flaws...
      - Instead He will see the perfect life of His Son Jesus - He sees us as perfect/flawless!
    - 'I TELL YOU THE TRUTH' - if those who are 'spiritually dead' - listen to My voice...
      - They will live - the Father gives life - and He has given the Son the ability to give life!
      - Not because we earned it - it is given to us as a free gift - given through Grace!
      - **Ephesians 2:8** - "By grace you have been saved through faith... it is the gift of God."
      - All it takes to be saved - is to simply hear the Word of God - and believe...
      - God did all the work for us - made it easy - because He wants everyone to be saved!
  - o **2<sup>ND</sup> - The Son came to Judge those who refuse to believe... vs. 27-30**
    - If we only have this life to live - then there are no consequences for our actions...
      - There is no right - there is no wrong / there is no heaven - there is no hell...
      - We must as well live it up - eat / drink / and have all the fun we can...
      - Because when it is over - there is nothing - we cease to exist...
      - Much of the world lives by this doctrine - as though there are no consequences...
    - The DAY WILL COME - when everyone will listen to the Jesus' voice...
      - All of those who are in the grave - all who have died - both good and bad...
      - And they will all be resurrected to spend eternity in either heaven or hell...
      - **Daniel 12:2** - "Those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace..."

- Everyone will live forever - the question is where you will spend eternity...
- Salvation is as simple as a choice - look to Jesus and spend eternity in heaven...
- Or choose to look away - and spend eternity separated from God in hell...
- God chose Jesus to be the Judge - because He is 'a son of man' (*not a title here*)...
  - Jesus is the perfect judge - because He knows what it means to be human...
  - **Hebrews 4:15** - "He faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin."
  - If the Father judged we could argue - 'you don't understand what it means to be human'
  - But like a jury of our peers - Jesus understands - and takes away that excuse!
- Jesus will not judge by His own authority...
  - Jesus said 'I can do nothing on my own - I only Judge what I hear from the Father.
    - Up to this point - Jesus has referred to Himself as 'the Son' - now He makes it personal...
    - He wants to make it clear - his judgment is not 'His opinion' - it is the Father's...
  - Since Jesus does not make His own judgments - they are always going to be right!
    - The symbol for justice is a blind woman holding a scale...
    - The idea being true justice is not swayed by options - but only weights the truth...
    - Jesus does not judge men according to His mood - His personal preferences...
    - He will judge according to the perfect standard set down by the Father in His Word...
  - No one will be able to stand before God and say 'I did not know I was a sinner'...
    - We all have the standard - the Word - that we will one day be judged by...
    - A standard of perfection we all failed - **Matthew 5:48** - we all sinned - **Romans 3:23**
    - So unless we have faith in Jesus - the only thing that waits us is certain judgment!
    - **Hebrews 10:27** - "There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies."
- **3<sup>RD</sup> - THE PROOF OF JESUS' AUTHORITY... vs. 31-39 (3 THINGS)**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - The witness of John the Baptist... vs. 31-35
    - If Jesus were alone in His claim to be the Savior / Judge - then He would be a liar...
      - According to the Law - a truth had to be established by 2 or more - **Deuteronomy 17:6**
      - Anyone could go around 'claiming' they were the 'messiah' - but where is the proof...
    - The Father sent John the Baptist - to testify Jesus was the Savior / Judge...
      - John understood and told everyone exactly who Jesus was and why He came...
      - Jesus was the 'Lamb of God' - who came to take away the sin of the world - **John 1:29**
      - The leaders even sent investigators to find out about John's message...
    - John was a burning - shining light - willing to show Jesus to anyone would see!
      - And for a while - the leaders were excited about what he had to say - but it did not last...
      - Who would not like the message of salvation - the free gift of eternity with God...
      - But the message is about repentance - that leads to salvation...
      - It is not enough to not want to go to hell - we must choose to live for Jesus today...
      - Most are not willing to give up the 'pleasures' of this life - in order to inherit eternal life!
    - Yet Jesus was not content to only accept the endorsement of a man...
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - The witness of Jesus' works... vs. 36
    - The Father had given Jesus Miracles to perform - that showed He was the Savior / Judge...
      - Turning water into wine in Cana / the healing of a lame man at Bethesda...
      - The feeding of the 5000 / opening the eyes of the blind / raising of the dead!
      - There was no shortage of miracles given to validate the authority of Jesus!
      - But Jesus knew even miracles were not enough...

- Jesus used signs and wonders to prove his authority - but 'miracles' can be counterfeited...
  - Satan can – and will - imitate God – so he looks like the real thing...
  - **II Corinthians 11:14** – “Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”
  - Why do the Mormons have meet in pretty 'churches' on Sunday morning for 'worship'...
  - Satan can come in pretty packages - sin / false teachings - can look really good...
  - But you can always spot a false sign - because they will contradict the Word...
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> - The witness of the Father... vs. 37-39
  - The leaders had never seen the Father - no man has even seen God - **Exodus 33:11**
    - But they did have the Word of the Father - the Bible - but they refused to listen...
    - They studied their Bibles - thinking their 'religion' had the power to save them...
    - But the Bible is - ALL ABOUT JESUS - it is meant to point us to Him!
  - Empty religion does not have the power to save us from judgment...
    - Just because you carry around a big Bible - does not mean you are safe...
    - Just because you can quote a 1000 verses - does not mean you are forgiven...
    - It is only a relationship with Jesus that brings salvation...
    - The Bible is meant to introduce us to - let us get to know - our God who loves us!
- 4<sup>th</sup> - THE REJECTION OF JESUS... vs. 40-47
  - o The Leaders refused to come to Jesus - so they might live... vs. 40-44
    - Jesus knew them - and so knew they did not Love God...
      - Jesus came from the Father - and they still rejected Him...
      - If they had loved God - they would also have loved Jesus who came from God...
      - But they had so much love for the praises of men – they cared nothing for God!
      - **John 12:43** – “They loved [agape] the praise of men more than the praise of God.”
    - Ultimately the only reason someone reject the free gift of salvation...
      - Is because there is something else that they Love more than God in their life...
      - It could be a love the acceptance of people/ family - unwilling to stand up for Jesus...
      - Or it could be the love of drugs/alcohol - the love of pleasure - living for the moment...
      - Or it could even be the love of money - desiring the things of this world...
    - In the end they rejected Jesus - and instead would receive another...
      - Jesus is referring to the 'anti-christ' - deceived they would follow a false messiah...
      - **Daniel 9:24-27** - the man of sin who will make peace in Israel...
      - He will build the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple - and be received and the promised Messiah...
      - When we reject Jesus - we open ourselves up to being deceived...
      - Trusting in someone / something that has not power - to save us
  - o Jesus would not be the one who judged the leaders - it would be Moses... vs. 45-47
    - The one who they trusted to save them - the 'Law-giver' - would in fact condemn them...
      - This all began with the leaders accusing Jesus of breaking Moses' Law...
      - Yet it was in fact Moses Law - that stood in judgment of them...
      - Because the Law of Moses had only one purpose - to point people to Jesus Christ...
      - An since they did not believe the message of Moses - they could not believe in Jesus!
    - The Law has only one purpose - show us our need for Jesus...
      - The Law can only tell us what is right – is has not power to make us right...
      - God never intended His Law to make us good – no more than a mirror makes you pretty...
      - The purpose of the Law was to show the perfect standard of God – so we would see...
      - Just how sinful we were – and how much we desperately need Jesus!