

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...
- **1ST - 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!
- **2ND - THE REASON WHY JESUS CAME... VS. 24-30 (2 REASONS)**
 - o **1ST - 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 **2ND - 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 mind 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."
- **3RD - THE PROOF OF JESUS' AUTHORITY... vs. 31-39 (3 THINGS)**
 - 1st - 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...
 - 2nd - 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 3rd - 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!
- 4th - 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 3rd 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!