

11/10/26

John 5:19-30
The topic of this week is especially meaningful to me, as I'm sure it is to so many people, because it really does give us the confidence to grieve with hope. 3 years ago today, the Lord unexpectedly took my father-in-law home to be with Him. Though we have grieved his loss, we live with the hope of knowing we will see him again… along with so many other loved ones I look forward to seeing someday. I'm so thankful that we have a God who always gives us a reason to hope even when we don't understand His plan. A musician named Babbie Mason wrote a song, Trust His Heart. The chorus is ~

God is too wise to be mistaken
God is too good to be unkind
So when you don't understand
When don't see His plan
When you can't trace His hand
Trust His Heart

That's what it means to grieve with hope. Trust His heart. Amen.

Blessings,
Jonna

Was Paul going rogue when he talked about the resurrection of the dead? Nope. He was speaking by the power of the Holy Spirit. Nothing he said was contrary to what Jesus said. In this passage, John 5:19-30, I get to see how Jesus explained it and why it matters. Truly, if what Jesus said about the resurrection isn't true, none of what Jesus says is true. But the fact is, every word of His proves true. I pray that my finite mind won't argue with what I can't understand, but that I'll embrace that my God does understand. I get to be in awe as He unfolds the mystery of His supernatural, divine, humanly impossible plan.

Before I jump into the passage, I see that Jesus started this conversation because the Jewish people wanted Him dead. They were appalled at the way the "Lord of the Sabbath" handled the Sabbath. But even more, they were horrified at the fact that Jesus called THE Father HIS Father, "making Himself equal with God." And He WOULD be worthy of death IF it weren't

true. But it IS true! Jesus is God, one with the Father and one with the Spirit. "God in three persons, blessed Trinity."

In this passage, Jesus says "truly, truly" 3 times. I learned that the Greek word for truly is "amén". AMEN! It means, "So be it." "It is true." And when Jesus says the words twice in a row, it means this is absolute.

Timothy Keller said that most people say "amen" in response to something someone says. Jesus said it BEFORE He spoke the truth. He was saying, "Pay attention. This is absolutely, unalterably true."

So… what are His "truly, truly" absolute, unalterable truths?

First, Jesus did not shy away from their disgust at His statement that He is aligned with the Father. In fact, in John 10:30, He really got their frustrated attention when He said, "I and the Father are one"!!! Here, Jesus said, "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."

This is huge to me. Jesus is God, and yet He still submits to the authority of the Father. He is equal with the Father while He is also obedient to the Father. This passage is the one that changed my understanding of God's call for me to submit to my husband. Submission does not mean inferiority. Jesus is not inferior to the Father.

Jesus came to make the Father known and He never went rogue with that plan, and He never thought He knew better than the Father how it should be done. He said, "Yes, I'm obedient to My Dad, and My Dad LOVES Me. Because He loves Me, He shows Me all that HE'S doing." Jesus came to introduce us to the Father so that we could be reconciled to Him.

When I look at Jesus' obedience to the Father, I see that He's not trying to earn the Father's love. He already has it. I need to learn from His example. My obedience to the Father is not about following a rule book so I win a game. And it's not about appeasing Him so that He doesn't punish me. Truly, truly, this is about a relationship with Him where I get to experience His love for me… and that goes way better when He's not having to keep correcting me for rebellion. Who is able to have a peaceful, deep relationship with a rebellious child? O Lord, please help me to follow Jesus' example!

Jesus said, "Just wait. Whatever you think you've seen the Father do… He's gonna do way more. He raises the dead and gives them life… eternal life. That's what I'm here to do, too. Give eternal life."

The Father gave Jesus the right to judge the world for a purpose… SO THAT all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father." These are words I accept without much thought. These are words most Jews still do not accept today! Jesus said, "Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him." We're told in 1 John 4 that we can know who is

really from the Spirit of God by how they respond to Jesus. Just as I would not want to be friends with someone who rejected one of my kids while my kids are faithfully doing what I've asked them to do, the Father is not going to lovingly welcome someone who rejects His Son who He sent to die for them!

Some people especially struggle with trusting the Father because of difficult or nonexistent relationships they've had with their own dads. I believe that's a strategy of the evil one to separate us from God. But the truth is (truly, truly), Jesus is "the radiance of the glory of God and the EXACT imprint of His nature" (Hebrews 1:3). He and the Father are One. So when I see Jesus caring for the hurting and sick and loving the sinners, I know the Father is doing the same.

The second "truly, truly" absolutely unalterable truth is found in vs. 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."

I don't think I noticed the pronouns before… I'm called to HEAR the words of JESUS, and BELIEVE the FATHER who sent Him. To hear Jesus and believe IS to believe the Father. Jesus truly ushers me into a reconciled relationship with the Father. This belief is the doorway to eternal life.

Jesus said in John 17:3, "And this is eternal life, that they know You (Father), the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." To believe in the Lord is to KNOW the Lord… the Father and the Son who are one. From this one verse I might conclude that Jesus is not God, but I have a plethora of other scriptures that make it clear He is. Let me not take little snippets of scripture out of context to draw conclusions. In this same passage in John 17, Jesus spoke multiple times of how He and the Father are one.

So… I'm called to HEAR what Jesus has to say and BELIEVE the Father who sent Him. And when I do, I do not ever have to face the judgment of those who refused to hear Jesus, though I deserve the same punishment they will face. The only thing that separates me from them is that I've placed my faith in the blood of Christ as my redemption, and therefore, I am no longer the walking dead… but I have a living hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Truly, truly… it IS Him for Me. So Lord, let this be just as true… Me for You.

The third "truly, truly" absolutely unalterable truth Jesus spoke in this passage is, "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."

This is the promise of resurrection! It is absolute and unalterable. God has spoken and it will be. True eternal life is in the Father and He has granted for that eternal life to be in His Son… and because Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, I get to go to the Father for all eternity.

I don't know exactly what the people listening must have been thinking, but whatever it was,

I'm guessing their mouths were dropped to their chest in wonder. These are things I easily take for granted because I've read them for many years. But this was new to them at the time. They were shocked. Jesus said the day is coming when the dead will hear His voice and be raised! Those who have "done good" will be raised to life forever with God. Those who have done evil will face judgment… and that will not go well for them.

What is "good" in the eyes of God? It's said throughout scripture and even in this passage, "The righteous will live by faith." True righteousness can only come by faith in the righteous One who gives us His free gift of righteousness.

So then, what is evil? Anything NOT done in faith in Jesus. So if someone were to be asked, "If you died today and God asked why He should let you into heaven, what would your answer be?" And their response was, "I hope my good outweighed my bad. I think I'm a good person", that would not be the answer that would usher them into heaven.

Before a holy God, none of us are good. No not one. Romans 3:23 says, "For ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." That's why Jesus HAS to be our answer. Only HE is good enough. Only HIS blood could cover my debt of evil. Truly, truly.

The last verse I look at in this conversation Jesus had with the Jewish people is vs. 30, another reminder to me of the oneness Jesus had with the Father… and a call to me to follow His example. He said, "I can do nothing on My own. As I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I seek not My own will but the will of Him who sent Me."

Another reminder to me that submission does not mean inferiority. But if JESUS who IS God followed the will of His Father, how can I ever think I know better than Him??? The question I have to ask myself is, "Am I seeking the will of my Father in heaven, or am I seeking MY will?" O Lord, I want to say that I'm always seeking Your will, but as I'm wrestling right now with a prayer that You're not answering with a yes, I realize that I'm not seeking Your will in this. I'm seeking for You to give me mine. Please forgive me. I trust You. You're in charge. You know what's best.

So Lord… truly, truly, please help me to give You the honor You deserve. Truly, truly, please help me to hear Your word and believe… and put that faith into action. Truly, truly, please help me to trust that You have my eternity safely protected in Your loving hands. I can trust the absolute, unalterable truth of Your word because You said it. Amen.