

***“The Father and the Son”***

**John 5:19-29**

**Sermon Date: March 17th, 2019**

**Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon**

**Prayer**

As you begin your study this week, spend some time praising the one true and living God who eternally exists as three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Pray that Holy Spirit would continue to teach you wonderful things about the relationship between the Father and the Son through this passage. Ask Him to strengthen your faith in Jesus as a result of your time reflecting on His words this week. As you pray, make the following words your own before the Lord (prayer taken from Everyday Prayers by Scotty Smith).

*“Gracious Jesus, I’m praising you [today] for the Scriptures, for they are constantly redirecting my wandering heart to its true destination. And I’m praising you for the gospel, for the gospel is not only my GPS but the car that gets me home. Indeed, Jesus, I’m resetting my heart on you [today].*

*You are my destination and my delight. By God’s grace, your death is considered to be mine. When you died on the cross, God punished you for all my sins. When you were raised from the dead, I was raised with you and was given a whole new life and story.*

*Right now my life is safely hidden in you, for God has placed me in union with you, Jesus. I’m covered with your righteousness, completely forgiven and acceptable to God, and very much loved by him. I’m destined to become as lovely and as loving as you and to reign with your whole bride in the new heaven and new earth. There’s no other story I’d rather be in – and yet, until the day you return, I’ll be tempted to think otherwise.*

*No one and nothing else is worthy of my heart’s adoration, affection, and allegiance – only you, though good things and bad things claim otherwise. I set my heart on you today, Jesus, as my ultimate good. Not on my reputation, my children, my marriage, my stuff, my job. Not on my desire to get even, to get out, to be liked, to be happy, to be in control, to be safe.*

*Jesus, you’ve done everything for me, and now I trust you to do everything in me that will bring you glory. In your matchless name I pray. Amen.”*

**Scripture**

**John 5:19–29 – (English Standard Version)**

***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.* ***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.* ***21*** *For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.* ***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.* ***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.*

***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.*

**Handling the Word**

1. The verse that precedes our text this week (5:18) sets the stage for understanding all that Jesus is going to say in the remainder of this chapter (5:19-47). Take a moment to reread verse 18 and write down the main point it conveys. Then read the remaining verses in chapter 5 and summarize what Jesus says to enhance our understanding of verse 18.

**Understanding and Applying**

1. Jesus, in this discourse, makes clear what the people were already coming to understand: that Jesus was claiming to be “equal with God” (v. 18, also refer to John 1:1-5). What does Jesus say in each of the verses below that supports His claim to be fully God?

Verse 19 –

Verse 20 –

Verse 21 –

Verse 22 –

Verse 23 –

Verses 24-25 –

Verse 26 –

Verses 27-29 –

1. Jesus says so much about the relationship between the Father and the Son in this passage, especially in verses 19-23. What are some of the things we learn about the relationship they enjoy? Why is a right understanding of their relationship such a critical part of our faith?
2. In verse 23, Jesus makes the astonishing claim that He is worthy of the same worship and honor as the Father. Why might the people in Jesus’ day have found it difficult to honor Jesus in the same way they were honoring the Father? Do you think people today, maybe even some who are part of the church, still find this difficult? Why or why not?
3. Jesus makes it clear in this passage that He has power over life spiritually, physically, and eternally (verses 21, 24-26, 28-29). When you consider Jesus’ time on earth, how did He confirm His power over each of those? When you consider the world in which we live, why is Jesus’ power over life such amazingly good news?
4. Jesus’ words regarding the final judgment in verses 27-29 should sober us and force us to think differently about how we live our lives in the present. How does thinking about the final judgement influence the way you think about and live your life? Would your life look any different if you went about your daily obligations with a greater awareness that everyone around you is going to face Jesus as their final judge? If so, in what ways?
5. At the end of the day, because Jesus is God, He is the judge who gets to determine that which is acceptable to Him and that which is worthy of His condemnation (also refer to verse 22, Acts 17:30-31, and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8). While that determination should be left to Jesus Christ alone, why does mankind generally struggle with trusting Him to be the ultimate judge of what is good, perfect, and acceptable? What can happen when we place ourselves in the role of determining what is acceptable and what is worthy of condemnation?

1. Verse 29 says that all who have “done good” will be raised to eternal life and those who have “done evil” will be raised to eternal condemnation. We know that this verse is not saying that our good or bad deeds are what determine our eternal destination because that would contradict so many clear passages that speak to the contrary. It is our faith in Jesus Christ alone, or lack thereof, which determines where we will spend eternity (for examples, refer to John 3:16, 5:24, Romans 3:24-28, and Galatians 2:15-16). What this verse does suggest, however, is that there is a direct correlation between what we believe and the way that we live. According to the passages below, what is the relationship between our deeds and our faith? Why can “those who have done good” (v. 29) eagerly anticipate the resurrection of life?

Matthew 12:33-37 –

Ephesians 2:8-10 –

James 2:14-18, 26 –

1. The words of Jesus in this passage force everyone who reads them to make a decision about who they believe He really is. As C.S. Lewis famously wrote regarding Jesus’ claims about being God, *“You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman, or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him or kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come to him with any patronizing nonsense about him being a great human teacher. He has not left that option open to us. He did not intend to.”* What did Jesus say in these verses that leaves us with no other option but to either completely accept Him as Lord in faith, or to completely reject Him as Lord in unbelief? Why is it impossible for anyone to remain neutral about Jesus, even if they claim to be so?
2. The rich theology of this text challenges our minds and encourages us to think lofty thoughts about our God, but it shouldn’t stop with just our thoughts; these theological truths have numerous and powerful implications for our lives. What are some practical implications that come to mind as a direct result of the things Jesus revealed about Himself in this passage?
3. What has been encouraging to your soul during your time studying this passage? What verse or concept has grown your love of and appreciation for who Jesus is and what He has done?

*“In reading [Jesus’] words, we must all feel that we are reading mysterious things, and treading on very holy ground. But we must feel a deep conviction, however little we may understand, that the things he says could never have been said by one who was only man. The speaker is nothing less than God manifest in the flesh.”*

*J.C. Ryle*