

Jesus' Discourse on Eternal Life and The Father

John 5:19-47

Jesus' Deity and Credentials

Text:

19. Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

20. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.

21. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

22. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,

23. that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

24. "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

25. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come 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 to have life in himself.

27. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

28. "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice

29. and come out. Those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

30. By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

31. "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not valid.

32. There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is valid.

33. **“You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth.**
34. **Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved.**
35. **John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.**
36. **“I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me.**
37. **And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,**
38. **nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent.**
39. **You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the scriptures that testify about me,**
40. **yet you refuse to come to me to have life.**
41. **“I do not accept praise from men,**
42. **but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.**
43. **I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name you will accept him.**
44. **How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God.”**
45. **“But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set.**
46. **If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.**
47. **But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”**

Commentary:

John 5:19, Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

I. Jesus' life was filled with conflict.

A. He, the ultimate representation of the Father, stood in direct opposition to the devil and his supporters.

B. Our lives are also filled with conflict, some avoidable and some unavoidable.

II. Jesus truly said that he, the Son of God, did nothing on his own, but only what the Father authorized.

A. God the Father set the example and Jesus imitated the Father's example.

B. We too are to imitate Jesus and in this way are to set an example for the world.

C. Jesus and Jehovah are the greatest possible example of harmony. Christians are to be in harmony with deity.

III. Jesus wanted the Jews to realize, as Nicodemus did, that, "No man can do the signs which thou doest except God be with him." John 3:2.

John 5:20, For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.

I. God the Father loves the Son.

II. God the Father reveals to the Son everything that he does.

III. Greater works than had been performed up to that point would be performed by Jesus.

IV. The purpose of these works was to convince the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.

John 5:21, For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.

I. God raises the dead and gives them life.

A. God raises both the physically and spiritually dead.

II. The Son gives life to whom he wills.

A. Lazarus

B. John 5:25, I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

C. Jesus also gives life to the spiritually dead.

III. Jesus was making the point that his miracles proved that he had the Father's seal of divine approval.

John 5:22, Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,

I. The Father did not give civil and military judgment to the Son.

II. The Father did give spiritual judgment to the Son.

A. Those now critical of Jesus will find themselves standing before Jesus at the great day of judgment.

John 5:23, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

I. No clearer statement could be made!

A. The Son is to be honored in the same way and to the same extent that the Father is honored.

B. The Father and the Son are both deity.

John 5:24, “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

I. Jesus declared with emphasis that the person who believes in him and hears his word will have eternal life.

A. Such a person will not come into judgment (condemnation), but has passed out of death into life.

B. This state of faith and dedication must continue until death for the virtual to become reality.

John 5:25, I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

I. The time had then come when the dead would hear the voice of the Son of God and live.

A. The dead in sin who heard (believed) the word of Christ would live spiritually.

B. Those who rejected Christ's word would remain dead in their sins.

II. At the end of the world all (believers and unbelievers) will respond to the judgment call!

John 5:26, For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

I. Jesus has life in himself as the Father has life in himself.

A. The Jews would crucify Jesus, but they could not extinguish his life. He would be resurrected!

B. John 10:17, 18, The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

John 5:27, And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

I. God the Father gave God the Son authority to execute judgment.

A. Matthew 28:18, Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and one earth has been given to me.”

John 5:28, 29, “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out. Those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

I. The dead at the end of the world will be raised from their graves.

A. The righteous will be raised to life.

B. The evil doers will be raised to condemnation.

II. Both the good and evil will heed the resurrection call of the Son.

A. **John 11:43, When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”**

John 5:30, 31, By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. “If I testify about myself, my testimony is not valid.

I. Jesus continued to persuade these Jewish enemies to believe in him.

A. As an individual apart from God, Jesus said he could do nothing.

B. The judgment of Jesus is righteous because his judgment and God’s judgment are the same.

C. Jesus said, in view of every word’s being established by two or three witnesses, the Jews would not believe if he simply stated the truth himself.

John 5:32, There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is valid.

I. The other witness here is God the Father.

A. This clearly states that God the Son and God the Father are two persons.

B. One is a witness for the other.

C. God's witness is unquestionably true.

John 5:33, "You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth.

I. John the Baptist was a second witness to the divinity of Jesus.

A. **John 1:19, Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.**

B. **John 1:19-35, Now this was John testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you?" Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord,'" Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was**

baptizing. The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.” Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.” The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.

C. John 3:23-36, Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because they was plenty of water and people were constantly coming to be baptized. (This was before John was put in prison. An argument developed between some of John’s disciple and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan – the one you testified about – well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him.” To this John replied, “A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.’” The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He must become greater; I must become less. “The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. For the one whom God has sent speaks the words

of God, for God gives the Spirit without limits. The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

II. John bore witness of Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, the Bridegroom, and the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

John 5:34, Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved.

I. The goal of Jesus' teaching was the salvation of the lost.

II. Jesus' reference to John the Baptist as a witness was only incidental in view of the fact that many Jews had believed John.

John 5:35, John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.

I. John was described as a lamp which gave temporary light. The Jews were willing for a time to believe/dwell in that light.

A. John was the lamp. He was now in prison.

B. The Jews were generally now no longer willing to follow John.

John 5:36, "I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me.

I. The third witness attesting to Jesus' deity were the miracles he performed.

A. **John 3:2, He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one**

could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

B. Jesus turned water to wine at Cana.

C. Jesus healed the man who was let down through the roof in Capernaum.

D. Jesus healed the man at the pool of Bethesda.

II. Jesus performed many other miracles during his ministry.

John 5:37, And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,

I. God the Father sent Jesus. This was a prime witness of his deity.

II. God the Father bore witness of Jesus.

A. Matthew 3:16, 17, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

III. The Jews had neither heard his voice nor seen his form.

A. John 1:18, No one has ever seen God, but God’s Son, the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.

B. They did not recognize that God was speaking and could be seen through Jesus.

John 5:38, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent.

I. Jesus told his enemies, the Jews, that they did not have God's word abiding in them because they did not believe in Jesus whom God sent.

II. The three witnesses of Jesus' divinity were: (1) Jesus' miracles, (2) John the Baptist, (3) the scriptures which foretold the coming and work of the Messiah.

John 5:39, You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the scriptures that testify about me,

I. The Jews studied the scriptures because they hoped to find eternal life through the scriptures.

A. The scriptures did bear witness of Christ.

B. The Jews didn't understand the scriptures and therefore did not receive the eternal life they sought.

C. If they had truly understood the scriptures they would have believed in Christ.

II. Many today know much about the Bible while missing much of what it really means.

John 5:40, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

I. These words were spoken with genuine sorrow.

II. Only by coming to Jesus could they and can we have eternal life.

John 5:41, 42, “I do not accept praise from men, but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.

I. Jesus did not seek honor and glory from men.

A. John 12:42, Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;

B. Jesus was not surprised because the Jews found fault with his miracle at the pool of Bethesda.

II. Jesus knew these people to whom he talked and that they had a major religious covering, but they had no genuine love of God within themselves.

John 5:43, I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name you will accept him.

I. Jesus came in the Father’s name and was rejected.

II. If another had come in his own name, he would have been accepted.

A. Acts 5:36, Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing.

B. Barkochba (132-135 A.D.)

C. Worldly and unscriptural people have no trouble joining with cults, people like themselves.

John 5:44, How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?"

I. These Jews could not believe in Jesus because:

- A. belief in Jesus would make them unpopular with their peers.
- B. they did not really seek the popularity/glory of God.
- C. Jesus found it difficult to find a place in a society like that.

John 5:45, "But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set.

I. Jesus did not set about to accuse/condemn the Jews of his day.

II. Moses would condemn them. The Moses they honored actually condemned them.

- A. The foolish notion of the leaders of Israel that their strict keeping of the law's externals could entitle them to eternal life is among the most pathetic delusions of all time.
- B. People still cannot earn eternal life; it is a free gift of God through grace and obedient faith in Christ.

John 5:46, 47, If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?"

I. These Jews did not really believe Moses because he foretold the coming of Christ and they consequently did not believe in Christ. Therefore they did not believe in Moses' word.

II. Jesus in desperation exclaimed, **“If you don’t believe in Moses, I shouldn’t expect you to believe in me.”**

III. Scriptures from Moses about Christ include:

A. **Genesis 3:15, And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”**

B. **Deuteronomy 18:15-19, The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.” The Lord said to me: “What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account.**

C. **Acts 3:22, “For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.”**

D. **Acts 7:37, “This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.”**

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Questions

1. Jesus' _____ was filled with _____. He stood in direct _____ to the _____ and his _____.

2. _____ he _____ set the _____ and Jesus _____ the _____'s _____.

3. God _____ the _____ and gives them _____. The _____ gives _____ to whom he will. God raises both the _____ and _____ dead.

4. The _____ did not give _____ and _____ to the Son. He did give _____ to the _____.

5. The _____ is to be _____ in the same way and to the same extent that the _____ is honored. Do you worship Jesus? _____

6. The _____ will hear the _____ of the _____ of _____ and those who _____ will _____.

7. God the _____ gave God the _____ authority to execute the _____.

8. The time is coming when _____ who are in their _____ will hear his _____ and come out – those who have done _____ will rise to _____, and those who have done _____ will rise to be _____.

9. _____ the _____ testifies in Jesus' _____ . Jesus' judgment is _____ because his _____ and God's _____ are the same.

10. _____ the _____ was a second _____ to the fact that Jesus was divine and spoke God's _____ .

11. The _____ of Jesus' teaching was the _____ of the _____ .

12. The _____ witness attesting to _____ 's _____ were the _____ he performed.

13. The _____ had neither _____ God's _____ nor seen his _____ .

14. Another witness to Christ's deity were the _____ . The Jews studied the _____ because they thought that by them they could _____ .

15. Jesus said, "If you believed _____ , you would _____ me, for he _____ about me. But since you do not _____ what he, how are you going to _____ what I say?"