

## Sermon Outline

# “LIFE IN HIS NAME”: THE PURSUIT OF WHOLENESS AND THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

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## RESURRECTION NOW! (JOHN 5:25)

### I. Introduction

### II. “Truly, Truly, I Say to You” (Jn 5:25)

- A. Jesus makes a promise: “Truly, truly, I say to you...”
- B. This is the third time that Jesus is using these words.
  - Jn 5:19: “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.”
  - Jn 5:24: “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.”
  - Jn 5:25: “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.”
- C. The third occurrence of “Truly, truly, I say to you...” suggests to us that Jesus is very serious about what he is saying. There is an urgency to his words.
- D. There is an urgency to Jesus’ words, because...
  1. They have to do with the destiny of the human soul, the ultimate prize of glory.
  2. the alternative to eternal life is eternal suffering, eternal death, eternal unwholeness.

### III. The Eschatological Hour (Jn 5:25)

- A. What does Jesus promise now?
- B. In the first “truly, truly,” Jesus testified that the Son can only do whatever the Father is doing.
- C. In the second “truly, truly,” Jesus testifies that if we believe his words, we will pass from judgment into life.
- D. In this third use of this formula, the Lord testifies that a special *hour*, a special *moment*, is about to dawn.

- E. This *hour* is the moment when God’s promises to his people would begin to be fulfilled. This is the hour of...
- Resurrection
  - Eternal life
  - Kingdom of God
  - New creation
  - Eternal Sabbath rest
- all those things are now about to dawn. And they are dawning around this rabbi from Nazareth. They are materializing around Jesus.
- F. To say that the hour “is coming, and is now here,” suggests that it is here, and yet, not quite here yet.
1. The hour “is coming”—it is still in the future.
  2. The hour “is now here”—it is present.
- G. Implication: We can experience some of these heavenly realities starting today.
- God’s new world is breaking into this present age—and the One who is leading the way is Jesus himself.

#### IV. The Dead will Hear the Voice of the Son (Jn 5:25)

- A. If the hour is coming, what exactly would it bring? “...the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live” (v 25).
- B. These words have to be understood in light of everything else that Jesus has said.
1. Up to this point, Jesus has been talking about final resurrection and eternal life, i.e., eschatological realities.
  2. Therefore, when Jesus says that “those who hear will live,” he’s not merely talking about the afterlife. He’s talking about “new-heavens-and-new-earth” kind of existence, the reality of the new creation.
    - D.A. Carson: “the resurrection life for the physically dead in the end time is already being manifest as life for the spiritually dead” (*The Gospel According to John*, 256)
- C. When Jesus says that “those who hear will live,” he’s not merely talking about the afterlife, what happens when you die. He’s talking about final, ultimate, indestructible life; the life that cannot be destroyed by cancer or by flunking your exams; the life of God’s new creation.
- D. Who then are those we receive eternal life?
1. “The dead.”
  2. The dead ones who “hear the voice of the Son of God...”
    - Jn 5:21: “For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.”

## V. They Will Live (Jn 5:25)

- A. When the Son has his eye on you, when he calls you, the miracle happens. The life of heaven floods our lives.
- B. This new life shows up in the form of...
  - faith in Jesus for our salvation
  - newfound love for God and his Son
  - new taste for holiness
  - new longing for heaven
  - a life of ongoing turning from sin to God,
  - a new love for fellow children of heaven, and so on.
- C. What would it be like to have the new life in you today? How will this eternal life show up in your many relationships?

## VI. Irresistible

**The great Hour is upon us. The resurrection has begun. For us who believe in Jesus, the life of heaven is already in us. One day, it will take over completely. For those of us who are not yet believers, perhaps we will hear in today's words the voice of Jesus and believe in him to save us from our sins. Those who believe will pass from death to life. Jesus promises us that. And yet, make no mistake: It is Jesus who calls us. And when he does, none can resist: "those who hear will live."**

## Questions for Reflection

1. Was there anything in particular about today's sermon that blessed and encouraged you?
2. Was there anything that you disagree with or found difficult to accept?
3. Jesus has used the "Truly, truly, I say to you," formula three times. What did Jesus promise/testify in each of these times?
4. Who are those who receive eternal life?
5. Those who hear the Son will live. What does this tell us about the call of the Son?
6. What are some evidences that the new life of heaven has dawned in us?
7. How will the new life of heaven show in your various relationships at home, work, or church?