

Sermon Outline

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

LORD OF THE RESURRECTION

JOHN 5:28-29

I. Introduction

- A. The desire behind all that God has done in human history is to glorify his Son as *Savior*, *Judge*, and *Lord* of human beings.
- B. How is Jesus able to be the Savior and Judge of sinners?
 - 1. God has granted Jesus to have life in himself.
 - Jn 5:26: “For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself” (v 26).
 - 2. God has designated Jesus the Son of Man.
 - Jn 5:27: “And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man” (v 27).
- C. The Son of Man is the codename or the call-sign if you will of the Person whom God has chosen to receive the Kingdom from him and then bestow that Kingdom upon his people.
- D. In summary, the Lord Jesus is able to be the supreme Savior and Judge, because that is the role the Father has ordained for his Son to play since the beginning of the ages.
- E. In verses 28-29, the Lord returns to the matter of the *hour*.

II. The Hour

- A. The hour of which the Lord speaks is that great, climactic moment in time, when God’s promises to his people—promises for their forgiveness, promises for their salvation—begin to materialize.
- B. This hour that our Lord has in mind is the great Event, or complex of events, when the great realities of salvation and judgment begin to dawn.
- C. Those realities are dawning around Jesus.

III. The Hour to Come (Jn 5:28)

- A. There appears to be a slight difference between verse 28 and verse 25.
- B. In verse 25, Jesus said that “an hour is coming, and is *now here*...”
- C. But in verse 28, Jesus does not mention the “now here” part. He simply says, “an hour is coming...”
 - 1. In other words, Jesus speaks about the hour in purely future tense.
 - 2. Jesus is not talking about the *present* aspects of God’s hour, which were addressed in 3:16, 18, 36, and 5:24, 25.
 - 3. Instead, he is focusing on the *future* aspect of the hour in 5:28, i.e., those things that will take place only when God’s final Kingdom reality comes in all of its power.

IV. All the Dead will Hear His Voice (Jn 5:28-29)

- A. First: When this hour comes, Jesus says, “all who are in the tombs will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out...” (vv 28-29)
- B. At first, this sounds very similar to verse 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. But in verse 28, Jesus may be speaking more broadly, not just “*those who hear* will live” but “*all* who are in the tombs will hear...”
 - 1. While verse 25 focused on spiritually dead people whom Jesus elects to save, verse 28 focuses on all dead people without qualification, without exception.
 - 2. In verse 28, Jesus is speaking about a future event on a far larger-scale.

V. The Two Resurrections (Jn 5:29)

- A. The Lord teaches us in the rest of verse 29: “those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”
- B. There are two resurrections.
 - 1. One is “the resurrection of life,” which is for those who have “done good.”
 - 2. The other is “the resurrection of judgment,” which is for those who have “done evil.”
- C. There is a day when those who have died physically will be called up from the dead, raised to a bodily existence, and made to stand before the King of the universe once again to receive their eternal dues.

1. Those who have done good will receive their eternal reward, which is life.
2. Those who have done evil will receive their eternal punishment, which is condemnation.

D. Physical death is never the final word. There is blessing and curse beyond this present world guaranteed by Jesus who is *the Son of God* and *the Son of Man*.

VI. Unrivaled Lord

A. *Jesus is the Son of God, the Son of Man, the absolute Lord of all beings*—that is the hard, absolutely reliable fact at the center of all existence.

B. Because Jesus is the perfect reflection of the will of the Father, his lordship is good, righteous, just, loving, and holy.

C. The lordship of Jesus is the basis of our hope.

1. No matter what suffering we meet in our lives, no matter what evil is perpetrated in the world, the world is not spinning out of control.
2. Behind this present, pain-stricken reality is an even deeper and enduring one: The reality of righteousness, of goodness, of mercy, of love, of holiness—Jesus himself.

D. As we listen to this sacred Scripture, we must discern to what the Holy Spirit is calling of us.

The Holy Spirit is calling us to recognize who the real Master of the universe is. It's not exams. It's not your career. It's not your boss. It's not terrorism. It's not cancer, or old age, or discouragement, or depression, or whatever your Biggest Fear is. The real Power is Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of Man. The Holy Spirit is calling us to place all our hopes on the Lord Jesus, to entrust our lives completely to the loving care and influence of the Lord Jesus in order that we might escape condemnation and enter eternal life.

VII. Escaping the Judgment to Come

A. When we hear of the coming judgment, we may be tossed into turmoil.

B. If...

- we know the extent of God's Law and our consciences are not hardened,
- we can see that God's Law is not just a few principles for holy living but an entire complex of requirements that lay claim to every facet of our beings, —then our Lord's words really do not sound comforting at all!

- C. Who can say that he or she has not “done evil”? Who can say that their own good works (or attempts at good works) can stand up to the scrutiny of the Holy One?
- Psalm 130:3: “If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?”
 - Psalm 143:2: “Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.”
- D. The fact that Jesus is the Lord who will reward those who do good and punish those who do evil is not necessarily comforting.
- E. What can we do if we want to escape the coming judgment?
- 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.”
- F. The only way for a sinner to be pardoned of his or evil works (and not-so-good good works) and spared the coming judgment is to believe in Jesus, to entrust his or her life to the care and saving influences of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- G. If we believe in Jesus, it is as if all the good works that God requires of us to gain eternal life have been fulfilled. Yet the one who fulfills them is Jesus, not ourselves.
- H. D.A Carson suggests that the issue of doing good raised in 5:29 is answered in John 6: “John is not juxtaposing salvation by works with salvation by faith: he will shortly insist, ‘The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent’ (6:29).” (*The Gospel According to John*, 258).
- Jn 6:26-28: “Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.’ ²⁸ Then they said to him, ‘What must we do, to be doing the works of God?’ ²⁹ Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’”
- I. Belief in Jesus saves us from judgment; and, if we might add, creates truly good works that please God.

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. Based on Jesus' teaching, who is the ultimate Lord over all life?
4. What will happen at the final resurrection(s)?
5. To whom is the resurrection of life given? To whom is the resurrection of judgment given?
6. How can sinners escape the coming judgment?