

# Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

January 26, 2020

Sermon Title: When the Voice of Jesus Empties the Cemeteries”, John 5:25-29

Today’s Scripture: See insert

Introduction: Let’s visit the cemetery and imagine white flags and black flags. . .

Main point: Today is the day of salvation. Someday soon it will be too late.

Context:

Previously

1. Jesus defends His divinity by claiming that He has the same authority as the Father to work whenever they want, including the Sabbath day.
2. Jesus defends his divinity by claiming He has the same nature as God the Father.
3. Jesus defends His divinity by saying he has the same power as God and they work together in unison.
4. Jesus defends His divinity by indicating that He is loved by the Father like no one else could be loved except another member of the Godhead.
5. Jesus defended His divinity by explaining He has the same sovereign power as the Father.
6. Jesus defended His divinity by claiming that the Father had given Him the authority to judge all mankind,
7. Jesus defended His divinity by claiming He is owed worship as the Father is owed worship.

Transition verse: John 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. (ESV) i.e. if you believe that Jesus is the Divine Son of God then it is time to accept His offer of salvation.

Exegesis:

1. Jesus is bringing the spiritually dead to life by the power of his voice. “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.
  - All people of all races (even God’s chosen ones Israel) are spiritually dead and unable to save themselves and will remain dead apart from the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit who is speaking the voice of Jesus to their hearts.
    - Ephesians 2:1–2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins [2] in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— (ESV)
    - Romans 3:10–12 as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. [12] All have turned aside; together they have

become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” (ESV)

○ Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

○

• A person who “hears” the voice of Jesus will be saved. The hour is now here. . .

○ John 10:27–28 [27] My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. [28] I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (ESV)

○ John 3:5–8 [5] Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. [6] That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ [8] The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (ESV)

○ Exactly how does this work? Does the Spirit speak to everyone? Yes. Does He speak to the chosen louder and longer so that they actually wake up? Paul tells us in Titus 3

▪ Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (ESV)

▪ This regeneration literally means to give life where there wasn’t any before. So the Holy Spirit had to remove our sinful nature which was blocking our way to God and replace it with a new nature. Once we received that new nature, then it allowed us to hear and believe.

▪ Just as a baby did not decide to be born, so those who are born again did not choose to be regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Jesus will someday in the future bring everyone out of their grave to face either eternal judgment or eternal bliss.

• 1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (ESV)

• Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (ESV) If Christ is using his power to maintain the world then certainly he has the power to remake the world including raising bodies from the dead and bringing them back to life.

3. Inherent within the powers of divinity is the ability to produce life from death. **For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.**

• The Jews understood that all life flowed from the Father in heaven. Jesus is saying that the Father in His role as Father (authority here) granted the Son to exercise His ability to give life to dead bodies and souls.

• Jesus exercised that ability when he called forth Lazarus from the grave in John 11. John 11:43 **When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice,**

“Lazarus, come out.” (ESV)

4. Coming back to life is the least of all worries for those who have refused to trust in Jesus. After resurrection comes judgment. **And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.**
  - The Lord is uniquely qualified to judge all sinners (and saints) because he is able to read motives and since he is omniscient he knows everything we have done, but,
  - Even more importantly he is one of us. He is human (Son of Man). No one can say to the Lord, well you don't know what it's like to face the temptations we humans face.
    - Hebrews 2:18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (ESV)
    - Hebrews 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. (ESV)
  
5. There is only two destinations after this life, heaven or hell. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (ESV)
  - Jesus is not saying that good people according to our definition go to heaven and bad people according to our definition go to hell. No, it has to be Jesus' definition of good and bad. First of all good:
    - Matthew 19:17 And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” (ESV)
    - Romans 2:10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. (ESV)
    - Romans 3:12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” (ESV)
    - 2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (ESV)
    - Ephesians 2:8–10 [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)
  - Now the bad: Isaiah 64:6 **We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. (ESV)**

#### Application

Repent before it is too late. Hebrews 9:27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, (ESV)