

John 5-25-29
Jesus, divine judge!!!

1. Preamble
 - a. Honor SS teachers...
 - b. Plug home groups...
 - c. Honor Paul Proctor...
2. Prayer for illumination...
3. Sermon introduction:
 - a. The official motto of the boy scouts is “be prepared!”
 - i. This is a great motto, since most of life is spent preparing for something...
 - ii. When we are in high school, we are preparing to graduate.
 - iii. Then we prepare for a career/or college graduation.
 - iv. Then we prepare for marriage...
 - v. Then we prepare for kids...
 - vi. Then we prepare for grandkids...
 - vii. Many of you are preparing for retirement...
 - viii. Others are preparing for the empty nest phase
 - ix. All of life is preparation...
 1. Some of you are preparing right now to sell your house.
 2. Some of you are preparing to take a big test next week.
 3. Others are preparing presentations for work next week
 - b. Many of us prepare well for the events of this life...
 - c. But we fail to prepare for the most important event of life.
 - i. The most important event in everyone’s life is the day of final judgment.
 - ii. This is the day that all other days were made for.
 - iii. Are you prepared for that day?
 - iv. How do you prepare for that day?
 - d. This brings us to this morning’s passage.
 - i. We are working our way through the gospel of John.
 - ii. Earlier in John 5, the Jews are furious with Jesus for claiming to be God.
 - iii. As a result, Jesus defends his deity in John 5:19-47.
 - iv. In his defense, Jesus mentions that his divine nature gives him the right to judge the world someday.
 - v. This brings up the crucial subject of final judgment.
 - vi. To help us understand this crucial topic, I’m going to make three points...
 1. The identity of the judge.
 2. The certainty of judgment.
 3. The nature of judgment.

1. The identity of the judge.

a. Who is the judge? Jesus!!!

- b. **John 5:25–27 (ESV) — 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.

- i. Jesus claims that the father gave him power to bring spiritually dead people to life... This describes all of us before conversion.
- ii. Before conversion we are all as dead as a door nail, spiritually speaking...
- iii. But then God in his grace gave us life through Christ...

c. **27** And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

- i. The father has given him (Jesus) authority to execute judgment, because he is the perfect son of man...
- ii. The title “Son of man” was Christ’s favorite self-designation.
- iii. It comes from the book of Daniel (chapter 7).
- iv. In Daniel 7, the “son of man” was a figure who would come to judge all of humanity in righteousness.

d. Exposition-

i. It is fitting that Jesus is the judge for many reasons.

1. It is fitting that Christ be the judge since he is a man, and it is right for him to judge other men. (John 5:27)
2. It is fitting that Christ be the judge since he is fully God and only one who is fully God can judge with perfect equity.
3. It is fitting that Christ be the judge since he died and rose from the grave and deserves this honor (Phil 2:8-12)
4. It is fitting that Christ be the judge since he will be judging those who rejected him.
5. It is fitting that Christ be the judge since he himself is the standard by which we are to be judged.

ii. The thought of Christ as judge gives tremendous comfort to the saints.

1. Edwards- “Now, it is for the abundant consolation of the saints, that their own redeemer is appointed to be their judge. That the same person who spilled his blood for them has the determination of their state left with him... What matter of joy to them will it be at the last day, to lift up their eyes, and behold the person in whom they have trusted for salvation, to whom they have fled for refuge, upon whom they have built as their foundation for eternity, and whose voice they have often heard, inviting them to himself for protection and safety, coming to judge them.” (J. Edwards, final judgment)

e. Application-

- i. Trust me, if you a Christian you want Jesus to be the judge.

1. You want the one who loved you enough to die for you to judge you.
 2. You want the one who is currently praying for you to judge you.
- ii. Trust me, if you're not a Christian you don't want Jesus to be the judge.
1. It his commands you disobeyed.
 2. It is his blood that your scorned
 3. It is his love you rejected.
 4. And it is his omniscience that you can't escape.
- iii. Since Christ is the judge, everyone will be judged perfectly.
1. Which means that no one will receive an unjust sentence.
 2. No one will raise their fist and shout "that is not fair!"
 3. No one can say you were not there; you did not see what happened, and you did not know what I was thinking....
 4. Every mouth will be silenced, and every knee will bow.
 5. We will all marvel when Christ just judgments are revealed.

f. Maybe you are wondering, will judgment really happen? This brings us to the second point...

i. First, the identity of the judge!!!

2. The certainty of judgment.

a. John 5:28–29 (ESV) — 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.

b. Exposition-

- i. Jesus says, "for an hour is coming...."
 1. He is making a statement!
 2. He does not say, "for an hour may come..."
 3. Or, "I hope an hour is coming..."
 4. Or, "you better hope and hour is coming..."
 5. He says, "for an hour is coming..."
 6. This is certain...
- ii. "For an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice."
 1. Someday in the future, Christ will return.
 2. Everyone who has ever died will be raised to life!
 - a. What if they died 5000 years ago and their bodies no longer exist?
 - b. What if their bodies were eaten by sharks in the open sea???
 - c. What if their bodies were destroyed in an atomic blast???
 - d. God is all powerful... he will figure this out!!!
 - e. Nothing is impossible for the God who spoke hundreds of billions of galaxies into existence out of nothing!!!
- iii. Notice next that Jesus says, "when all who are in the tombs..."
 1. Everyone who has ever died, will be raised from the grave to stand before Jesus for judgment.

2. If they are not dead when Christ returns, they will still stand before Jesus nonetheless...
 3. This day is certain for everyone...
- iv. This will be a spectacular day...
1. Demographers estimate that around 100 billion people have lived and died on planet earth...
 2. This means that over 100 billion people will rise from the grave responding to the summons of king Jesus...
 3. Wow!!!
- v. This day of judgment is certain for everyone...
1. This is mentioned in at least two other places in Scripture...
 2. **2Co 5:10** ESV For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.
 3. **Act 17:30-31** ESV The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, (31) because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

c. Illustration-

- i. It is March, which means that April 15th is rapidly approaching...
- ii. Since I'm a pastor my taxes are relatively complicated, which is why I hire a CPA to prepare my taxes for me.
- iii. Even though I have a CPA prepare my taxes, I still do allot of preparation.
 1. Keep track of all the stuff that is mailed to me.
 2. Fill out a booklet for my CPA.
 3. I collect all my home improvement receipts for the year to prove my housing allowance for the year.
 4. I need to sort all my utility bills for my housing allowance
 5. Figure out how to handle our rental property
 6. Figure out the retirement stuff
 7. Etc...
- iv. We all need to prepare for Tax Day. Why? Tax Day is certain.
 1. Uncle Sam insists!!!
- v. People often say-
 1. "Two things are certain- death and taxes"
 2. Not true, three things are certain- death, taxes, and final judgment.
 3. Although final judgment is much more certain than death and taxes.
 4. Why?
 - a. Our government could collapse and stop collecting taxes.
 - b. Christ could return before we die.

5. There is nothing more certain than final judgment!!!

d. Application-

- i. Since your body will be raised and you will appear before Jesus, you must do everything in your power to be ready for that great and awesome day.
- ii. It is a fact that Christ will return and raise your body from the grave.
- iii. If you knew for certain that Christ would return in one month, how would that change the way you lived the next four weeks?
- iv. We would probably seriously consider,
 1. how we spend our money,
 2. what we watch,
 3. what we talk about,
 4. what we read,
 5. who we invest in,
 6. how we talk to our kids,
 7. etc...
- v. **William Childs Robinson** “The judgment seat of Christ lends seriousness to all life.”

- e. *Final judgment is certain... but what will happen during final judgment??? This brings us to the next subject...*
- i. *The identity of the judge.*
 - ii. *The certainty of judgment.*

3. The nature of judgment.

- a. *In other words, how will we be judged???? The answer contained in verses 28-29 may surprise you....*
- b. **John 5:28–29 (ESV) — 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.

c. Exposition

- i. Christ will return and raise everyone’s body from the grave.
- ii. Then he will judge the world.
- iii. According to verse 28...
 1. “those who have done good to the resurrection of life.”
 2. “those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”
- iv. **This seems pretty straight forward... We will be judged, by our actions...**
 1. Other texts corroborate this...
 2. **Mat 16:27 ESV** For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

3. Rom 2:6-8 ESV He will render to each one according to his works: (7) to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; (8) but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.
4. Jas 2:24-25 ESV You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. (25) And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?
5. Other texts- Rev 20:12; Rev 22:12; 2 Cor 5:10; Heb 10:30; 1 Pet 1:17; Rom 14:10; Jam 3:1; 1 Pet 4:17

d. Objection...

i. I thought we were justified by faith alone???

1. We are...
2. Back up a little bit to last week's text...

3. **John 5:24 (ESV) — 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.

b. So does the Bible contradict itself-

i. No!!!

ii. Jesus, Paul, and James agree...

iii. Faith must reveal itself in works!!!

iv. **John Calvin** "It is faith alone that justifies but that faith is never alone"

v. **Martin Luther** "We are saved by faith alone, but that faith is always looking for something to do"

vi. It is critical to understand the nature of justification-

1. To be justified is to be declared righteous.
2. What is the means of our justification? Faith alone
3. What is the grounds of our justification? The perfect life of Christ imputed to us and received by faith alone.
4. What is the proof of our justification? A changed life. This is the aspect that is accented in the "judged by works" passages.

c. **What are the implications of these truths for Christians???**

i. If you are a Christian, you will never be judged...

1. **John 5:24 (ESV) — 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.

2. Rejoice and be glad...

3. Heidelberg Q 52-

- a. "In all my distress and persecution I turn my eyes to the heavens and confidently await as judge the very one who has already stood trial in my place before God and so has removed the whole curse from me. All his enemies and mine he will condemn to everlasting punishment: but me and all his chosen ones he will take along with him into the joy and the glory of heaven."

4. Does this mean you can do whatever you want??? No!!!

- ii. If you are a Christian, your works are evidence that your faith is real, saving faith...
 1. Don't work hard to ensure your salvation...
 2. Trust Jesus even more...
- iii. If you are a Christian, you must warn your friends about judgment....
 1. Website- *"Japan was hit by an enormous earthquake on March 11, 2011, that triggered a deadly 23-foot tsunami in the country's north. The giant waves deluged cities and rural areas alike, sweeping away cars, homes, buildings, a train, and boats, leaving a path of death and devastation in its wake. Video footage showed cars racing away from surging waves. The United States Geological Survey reported the earthquake and on Monday revised its magnitude from 8.9 to 9.0, which is the largest in Japan's history. The earthquake struck about 230 miles northeast of Tokyo. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued warnings for Russia, Taiwan, Hawaii, Indonesia, the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Australia, and the west coasts the U.S., Mexico, Central America, and South America. As of a few days ago there are more than 12,000 people who have died and over 15000 still missing."*
 2. It sounds like these people were warned but they did not have enough time to escape.
 3. We still have time to warn our friends of the day of final judgment. We must warn them.
- iv. **What are the implications of final judgment for non-Christians?**
 1. There are two categories of non-Christians...
 - a. Deceived false professors
 - i. Most false professors don't know they are false professors...
 - ii. They are deceived....
 - iii. They think they have their fire insurance because they prayed a prayer at some point in the past, but their life has not changed at all!!!
 - iv. Maybe this describes you...
 - b. Unbelieving non-Christians...

- i. Someday, Christ will raise your body from the grave... This is certain.
- ii. He proved this when he rose from the grave...
- iii. When he does you will give an account for every bad thing you ever did.
- iv. God knows it all.
- v. God sees it all.
- vi. God demands perfection...
- vii. Jesus will judge all those who did not trust him...

c. Edwards-

- i. "The judge at that day will not mix mercy with justice. The time for mercy to be shown to sinners will then be past. Christ will then appear in another character than that of the merciful savior. Having laid aside the inviting attributes of grace and mercy, he will clothe himself with justice and vengeance. He will not only exact of sinners the demands of the law, but he will exact the whole, without any abatement... the wrath of God will be poured out upon the wicked without mixture, and vengeance will have its full weight."

2. **These are serious and sober words, and they are true words...** and they are spoken out of love! You must flee to Christ!!!

4. Conclusion

- a. In conclusion...
- b. Do you know the feeling of skidding across the ice in your car and being unable to do anything about it?
- c. This has happened to me many times...
- d. A few winters ago, I was driving our family car somewhere.
- e. I was probably going a bit too fast when a car stopped a good 50 feet in front of me.
- f. I started pumping the breaks and nothing happened. My car would not stop. I slid, and I slid, and I slid, and I kept sliding. I thought for sure I was going to smash into the car in front of me.
 - i. I felt totally powerless.
 - ii. I felt totally out of control.
- g. I braced for impact and at the last minute I was able to swerve off the road a few feet ahead of the car in front of me.
- h. We are all on a collision course with final judgment. Although we can't pump the brakes and stop this car called life.
- i. I hope and pray that you are ready for your collision course with final judgment.
 - i. All that matters in life is preparing for that day!!!
 - ii. The goal of pastoring is simple- preparing people for final judgment
 - iii. The goal of parenting is simple- preparing children for final judgment
 - iv. The goal of marriage is simple- preparing your spouse for final judgment
 - v. The goal of all relationships is simple- preparing our friends for final judgment.
 - vi. Lets pray...