

Part 14: John 5:16 to 47 - The Third Discourse

The first discourse was with Nicodemus; the second was with the woman at the well. This discourse follows the third sign - the healing at the pool.

(i) The Relationship between the Father and the Son (19 - 24)

What do these verses say about the relationship between God the Son and God the Father?

Nowhere else in the gospels do we find Jesus making such a systematic statement of his own unity with the Father, his divine mission and authority, and the proofs of his Messiahship" (Ryle)

V19ff - The Son -- the same as the Father yet subordinate to him. The Father loves the Son.

Which two aspects of Jesus work does this passage tell us about?

The Son's greater works include giving life and judgment.

V21- Although he gives life in eternity, the life Jesus gives also starts now - spiritual life. This is similar to Jesus words to Nicodemus -- especially verse 24a. The remainder of the verse goes further -- absolute assurance. Note that to accept Jesus is to believe God..

(ii) The Son and Judgment (25 - 30)

Quite simply -- Jesus will be everyone's judge on the day of judgment. He will call us to judgment. Jesus has already spoken of judgment when with Nicodemus. Jesus -- not so meek and mild.

Judgment is on the basis of works. This does not mean that salvation is on the basis of good works for John's gospel repeatedly makes it plain that people receive eternal life by belief on Jesus. But the lives we live form the test of the faith we profess.

(iii) The Witness to the Son (31 - 39)

Who or what does Jesus call as witness to himself and his teachings?
(see v33, 36,37 and 39)

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 honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour 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.

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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.

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31 "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not valid. 32 There is another who testifies in my favour, 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.

NOTES

* These discourses of Jesus in John's gospel seem to me to be much "heavier" than Jesus' teachings and parables in the other three Gospels

* In this passage Jesus claimed -
- to be equal with God
- to have authority to raise the dead
- to have valid witnesses to his claims

* When our Lord came to earth as man, He submitted Himself to the Father in everything. He veiled His glory and laid aside the independent exercise of His divine attributes. In the wilderness, Satan tempted Him to use His divine powers for Himself; but He refused to act independently. He was totally dependent on the Father and the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

* John's gospel speaks about God's love for "the world". But there is also the love that exists within the Godhead. The Father and the Son live together in a relationship of intense love for each other. The Son's submission to the Father is based on love.

* This passage refers to four different resurrections -
- dead sinners to eternal life. (24, 25)
- Jesus himself (25?)
- the future resurrection of believers (28, 29a)
- the resurrection of unbelievers to condemnation (29b)