

“Jesus Christ the Judge”
John 5:22-24; 27-30
(Preached at Trinity, November 14, 2018)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As Jesus entered Jerusalem to observe the feast He came upon a man who had been sick for 38 years. Having mercy upon him, Jesus healed him and sent him on his way carrying the pallet that he had laid upon for longer than he could remember.
2. John tells us that the actions of Jesus brought Him into conflict with the Jews. First of all, because this took place on the Sabbath.
Verse 9 - "Now it was the Sabbath on that day."
John 5:16 NAU - "For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath."
3. But, as we've seen, there was an even more significant reason for the conflict between Jesus and the Jews. In **Verse 17** Jesus makes a profound statement.
"My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."
 - A. First, Jesus called God His Father – “My Father.” The Jews did not refer to God with the familiarity of “my Father.” This was offensive to the Jews.
 - B. Second, the Jews clearly understood that Jesus was making Himself equal with the God.
Jesus was saying that God's seventh day rest did not mean He was idle. He had been working the whole time and in union with the Father, Jesus was also active.
4. This infuriated the Jews. They were not just angry. They wanted Jesus dead.
John 5:18 NAU - "For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God."
5. Jesus answered their charge, not by denying it, but by declaring it plainly.
John 5:19 NAU - "whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner."
6. Last time we examined the nature of the Trinity. God is one, undivided. Yet, He exists in three distinct persons. The three persons make up the one being of God. The persons of the Trinity share all of the attributes of God and are carrying out the single purpose of God. Jesus and the Father were one in being, one in purpose.
7. Although there is one God who exists in three unified persons, each person of the Godhead has a unique function as He carries out God's unified purpose.
We can see this in our passage tonight.
 - a. Judgment belongs to the Divine essence of God. It is God's action upon sin.
Romans 1:18 NAU - "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,"
 - b. But in the economy of the Godhead, each person of the Godhead has a particular function as God carries out His judgment.

8. In **Verse 22** John tells us that the Father has given all judgment over to the Son.
John 5:22 NAU - "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,"
9. The Apostle John often addresses the subject of God's judgment. He uses the verb meaning "to judge" (κρίνω) more than any of the other Gospel writers. John uses the word 19 times compared with 6 in Matthew and 6 in Luke and none in Mark. In fact, the only book of the New Testament that uses it more than John is Acts which uses it 21 times. In addition, John uses the noun form an additional 12 times. The theme of judgment is important for John.
 John had a great desire that men escape the condemnation of God's judgment and enter into eternal life through belief in the Son of God.
John 3:16-18 NAU - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
¹⁷ "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."
John 20:30-31 NAU - "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."
10. Here in **Verse 22** Jesus declares that judgment has been given to Him as the second person of the Godhead. This may seem to be a contradiction since in **Chapter 3** we read that Jesus did not come to judge.
John 3:17 NAU - "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."
 A. This is easy for us to reconcile. **Chapter 3** speaks of Jesus as the Savior who has come to deliver His people from their sins. In His incarnation the cross and atonement is in view. As the serpent lifted up in the wilderness, fallen humanity must look to Him. Those who look to Him find salvation and eternal life.
John 3:18 NAU - "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."
 B. But now in **Chapter 5** John wants us to see God's eternal purpose. In the scheme of the final judgment, Jesus will sit upon His throne as Judge.
11. Tonight I want us to consider this coming judgment
John 5:28-29 NAU - "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment."

I. The first thing we must see here is the universal dominion of Christ.

A. Jesus has been exalted to His throne of dominion

1. In His first Advent Jesus came as suffering servant. This was the point made in **Chapter 3**

John 3:16-17 NAU - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

2. Upon completing His work as the Redeemer of God, Jesus has returned to His throne in glory.

Acts 2:32-35 NAU - "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³ "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The LORD said to my LORD, "Sit at my right hand, ³⁵ until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

3. The throne of Christ is a throne of judgment

Philippians 2:9-11 NAU - "For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

B. Jesus is King of all - "He has given all judgment to the Son,"

John 5:27 NAU - "He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man."

1. Jesus has been raised to a universal throne
2. Upon the cross Jesus purchased dominion over all things. All authority has been given to Him.

3. Jesus declared this authority after His resurrection

Matthew 28:18-20 NAU - "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

4. Jesus has the right to exercise this authority universally

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

*Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.*

- II. Jesus will return to execute judgment upon all mankind – this has been given to Him
 "He has given all judgment to the Son,"
- A. This must be an important aspect of our preaching
1. All men will stand before Christ to give account
 2. Most close their eyes to this reality. They allow the numbing effect of the world to hide this fearful truth.
 3. The truth is death is only the beginning of an endless eternity
- B. All human beings are created with immortality – all of us will survive beyond the grave. All of us will exist for eternity.
1. For some eternity will be spent in indescribable joys in the presence of Christ
 - a. Heaven is a place free from sin—free from trial and torment, free of suffering and sadness, free of disaster and destruction
 - b. Death will no longer threaten us – There will only be life everlasting
 - c. Most important, Heaven is the presence of Christ. For eternity we will glory in His infinite excellence. We will behold His beauty. Heaven is a place where we will know in full the love of Christ. The communion we thirst for now will be full in eternity
 - d. Christ has designed for us a place of everlasting joy
 It is described as the new heavens and new earth – a place untainted by sin. It will be a place free of fear, free of anxiety, free of doubts – only joy in Christ.
 2. For others eternity will be filled with torment and indescribable anguish
John 5:29 NAU - "those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment."
 - a. It is described as a place of torment
Matthew 13:49-50 NAU - "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, ⁵⁰ and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
 - b. Hell is the ultimate expression of the wrath of God. It is a place where men will be eternally given over to their sin.
 - c. Hell is described as a lake of fire that will bring endless torment and suffering – heat that will singe the flesh, yet the flesh will never die.
 It is described as a place of darkness – no beauty, no pleasures – only darkness
- C. For all of us eternity will begin at the judgment seat of Christ.
 "He has given all judgment to the Son,"
1. The Bible says we must ALL appear before Christ
2 Corinthians 5:10 NAU - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

2. Every human being will stand trial before Christ the Judge – none will be exempt.
 - a. We will stand before a Judge who knows all. No witnesses will be called. He knows every thought you've ever had and every deed you've ever done. The secret things of men will be revealed.
 - b. **Verse 29** is not an expression of salvation by works but of testimony of our change of heart. The Christian hungers for righteousness.

III. We will all be judged according to perfect justice.

John 5:29-30 NAU - "those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment. ³⁰ "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

- A. The justice of Christ will be perfect
 1. Human beings share a universal condemnation
Romans 3:10-12 NAU - "as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; ¹¹ There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; ¹² All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one."
Romans 3:23 NAU – "For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God;"
 2. Every sin deserves the wrath of God
Romans 1:18 NAS - "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,"
 - a. God is holy, pure – no sin shall ever come into His presence. His anger is kindled against sin.
 - b. Heaven is the place of God's habitation. It is a place of perfection. No sin shall ever defile this place of perfect righteousness
 - c. Hell is a place God has prepared for Satan and all who sin
Matthew 25:41 NAU - "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;"
 3. As all men stand before Christ and are judged according to their works all will be found wanting.
 - a. God demands absolute obedience to His Law
 - b. All men fall short of the perfection the law demands. All are workers of iniquity.
 - c. Our very best deeds are insufficient to remove our sin.
 - d. Our very best deeds are in the end self-serving and infinitely short of God's demand of perfection. Because of our sinful hearts all of our best efforts are still vile in the sight of an infinitely holy God.

- B. There will be a multitude on that solemn day who will hear the words on this great day of judgment, "Not Guilty!"
- John 5:24 NAU** - "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."
1. How can this be! No man can make this claim.
 2. Enter the wondrous work of Christ. Enter the glorious Gospel.
 3. God sent forth Christ to die for sinners. The perfect, holy, righteous Son of God took upon Himself the flesh of humanity. As a perfect sinless man He then gave Himself to be nailed to the cross.
 4. As Jesus suffered God the Father laid upon Him the fullness of His wrath. The skies darkened, the ground shook – all of creation trembled at this spectacle as Jesus suffered the full punishment for the sins of His people.
 6. Jesus became their substitute.
Their sins became His sins as He became the Sin bearer

Conclusion:

1. Are you prepared for this great day?
Are you living in light of this approaching Day? It is near like an approaching storm. We can hear the thunder and see the flashing on the horizon.
2. Leonard Ravenhill at the age of 83 – “The more I read the Word of God the more it pierces my heart. It makes me stop, think, and meditate. I meditate now more on eternity than I ever have in all my life. Our people are not eternity-conscious. Do you think a person who is ready for eternity would miss a prayer meeting? Every person and every preacher will stand before God. That is the final reckoning day.”
3. Jesus will return at a time most unexpected
Illustration of the Days of Noah –
Luke 17:26-27 NAU - "And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all."
 - a. Many use this verse to point to the wickedness of that generation.
They say, “We are living in days just like the days of Noah”
While this may be true, this is not the context of the passage. The teaching here points to the unexpectedness of the return of Christ.
 - b. There is nothing wicked described in this passage. Life was going on as usual when the flood came in Noah’s day.
They were eating and drinking. They were beginning new families and planning futures until the very end
 - c. Luke adds:
Luke 17:28-30 NAU - "It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ "It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed."
 - d. Most people will be living life as usual – life filled with satisfying self
4. What can be done?
 - A. You must admit that you are a sinner in need of God’s salvation
 - B. You must forsake your sin and trust in the Gospel of Christ. That He lived a life of righteousness that His righteousness might be imputed to us and died in our place that by the atonement our sins might be forgiven.
 - C. You must trust Christ. Salvation is about life in Christ. Christ IS our salvation.
John 5:22-24 NAU - "He has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. ²⁴ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."