

1 John 5.25-26
And Those Who Hear Will Live!

Aim: to marvel that there is no other way to hear and to live than by the voice of the Son of God!

Scripture Reading: Mark 7.31-37

INTRODUCTION:

Last time in **John 5** we discussed **verse 24** which reads,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has eternal life and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

Jesus says that the one who **hears** His word and believes in Him who sent Him has eternal life. What we quickly notice in **verse 24** is that there is something essential to gaining and having eternal life. That something is **hearing** Jesus’ word.

J.C. Ryle says to **hear** Jesus’ word “is something more than just listening. It is **hearing** as a humble scholar, **hearing** as an obedient disciple, **hearing** with faith and love, **hearing** with a heart ready to do Christ’s will: this is the **hearing** that saves.”

For those of us this morning who **hear** and have **heard** the word of Jesus and believe in Him who sent Jesus we know that there are so many who do not **hear** and it is evident to us that they do not **hear** because they do not believe nor do they follow after the One who speaks.

You probably do not know this, but my oldest brother is deaf. He cannot **hear**. He wasn’t born this way. At an early age he developed a very high fever and they could’t get the fever lowered quick enough and the heat of the fever caused the damage to his ear drums. He’s now in his fifties and still cannot **hear**. So I’ve lived my whole life with an older brother that cannot **hear** my words nor could he **hear** my dad’s words to him.

So what's it like for someone who cannot **hear** and then all of sudden is given the ability to **hear**? This is what I love about life and God's providence in life; God gives us all kinds of illustrations in life to demonstrate to us in the physical world how the spiritual world works.

I have a short video for us to watch this morning. I saw this video a few years back and as I was working on the sermon this past week I was reminded about this little baby boy who was born deaf and then was given the ability to **hear** by his doctors. I want you to see what it's like in the physical world when someone who cannot **hear hears** his mother's voice for the very first time.

(VIDEO)

I'm so thankful to God that He gives us natural ways of seeing what He does for us spiritually. When the little boy's monitor is turned on he **hears** and his head moves, when he **hears** he stops sucking on his passy, and when he **hears** he turns to look at the one speaking to him. To see this 8 month old boy **hear** his mother's voice for the first time is remarkable and it moves us to rejoicing. How much more should we rejoice when someone **hears** the words of Christ, the message of the gospel, and now lives in the words of Christ and lives in gospel power!

Hearing the word of Christ is truly an amazing thing. Do you think you ever take **hearing** the word of Christ for granted? How many times do we **hear** the message of the gospel and it doesn't move as it should? How many times do we **hear** the word of Christ and it flows off of us like water off a duck?

Hearing the word of Christ, the message of Christ, the gospel of Christ is such an amazing blessing that each time we sit down to read or we gather to listen it should first and foremost lead us to ready ourselves to **hear**. Even right now how do you pray as I preach on the word of Christ? How do you pray as Pastor Mike preaches on the word of Christ? How do you pray as your husband or your dad reads and teaches you the word of Christ? **Hearing** the word of Christ is an amazing blessing that we should never take for granted or approach casually.

Today, I'm praying for all to **hear the voice of the Son of God and live!** Jesus says that He has that kind of power to **raise the dead by His voice.**

Let's read Jesus' claim together... **John 5.25-30.**

Title:

Aim:

The Spiritually Dead Will Hear The Voice Of The Son Of God (v.25)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.”

Jesus once again uses the words **Truly, truly** to signify the importance of what is about to be said. He says, **“an hour is coming and now is.”** What this means is that **the hour** of what He is about to say is upon them. The amen-truth of what I'm about to say is presently upon you and presently taking place. So what is taking place? What is happening in this **hour** that has come upon them?

The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and live!

So who are the **dead**? Jesus is speaking at this point metaphorically. The **dead** are the spiritually **dead**. What does it mean to be spiritually **dead**? It means to be incapable of **hearing** God by themselves. That all are incapable of seeing God by themselves. That all are incapable of believing God themselves. That all are incapable of walking after God by themselves. All are spiritually **dead**.

Paul to the Ephesians makes it pretty clear.

Ephesians 2.1-3 “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”

Again Paul speaks of spiritual **deadness** to the Colossians

Colossians 2.13 “When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.”

So at this point in **John 5** Jesus is specifically talking about the spiritually **dead**. And this **deadness** means that everyone is incapable of **hearing** and seeing and believing in God because of sin. There is an inability in everyone. This inability is what makes you spiritually **dead**. A **dead** man can do nothing, but stink. And according to Scripture all of your righteousness does indeed stink to God.

A 19th Century Scottish commentator named John Eadie says,

“Spiritual **death** implies insensibility. *Therefore* the beauties of holiness do not attract man in his spiritual insensibility, nor do the miseries of hell deter him. God’s love, Christ’s sufferings, earnest promises by all that is tender and by all that is terrible, do not affect him. *Spiritual death* implies inability. The corpse cannot raise itself from the tomb and come back to the scenes and society of the living world...inability characterizes fallen man.”

You see, Jesus came to resurrect the spiritually **dead**. And here in verse 25 Jesus tells us HOW He is going to resurrect the spiritually **dead**. How? They **will hear His voice**. They will **hear the voice of the Son of God**. Do you remember the baby boy when he **heard** his mother’s **voice** for the first time?

Those who are spiritually **dead** will **hear the voice of the Son of God**. Just as the baby boy needed another person’s help to **hear**, so do the spiritually **dead**. The word **hear** in **John 5.25** is one of the first Greek words that you will learn if you ever learn Greek. It is *akouo* and it means to be endowed with the faculty of **hearing**. Jesus came so that those whom the Father gave to Him **will hear His voice**. He came to give you the ability to **hear His voice**.

Can you hear the voice of Christ? Have you been given the ability and faculty to hear Jesus’ voice? To not have the ability **to hear the voice of the Son of God** is to be considered **dead**.

But Jesus came so that you **will hear the voice of the Son of God**. But not only will **the dead hear His voice**, but they will **hear His voice** and what? **Live!**

What's so sweet to me is how **hearing and living** go hand in hand. For those who cannot **hear** God, they are considered **dead**. But those who do **hear** God are considered **living**.

Hearing And Living And Prayer

So at this point, if you're really thinking through some of the implications of what Jesus is saying to the people, who by the way are trying to kill Him, one of the many implications that **verse 25** has for us today is in how this truth affects your prayer life.

So this one truth broadens our prayers even more. We don't simply just pray that God will make people alive, but we also pray now that God will give them ears to **hear the voice of the Son of God**. Because in **hearing the Son of God's voice** means that they are being made alive or have become alive.

Sometimes when we study God's Word and we learn more of how God sovereignly works it is to help us pray more effectively and intentionally. We should pray for those who are **dead** spiritually to **hear the voice of the Son of God**. Pray that **the Son of God** would speak to them and that the Holy Spirit will give them ears to **hear**.

There is so much power in the **voice of the Son of God** and there is so much diversity in what **God** accomplishes when He speaks that a **dead** man not only **hears** His **voice**, but **lives** again at the very same time. **Hearing and living!** This is how awesome and powerful **the voice of the Son of God** is...that you are instantly able to **hear** and made alive together at once.

So the power is not necessarily just in the spiritual resurrection unto new life, but we must see that the power of resurrection originates in the Person and in the **voice of the Son of God** speaking into the ears and heart of a spiritually **dead** man when Jesus speaks to Him. There...is the power!

Can you see His power? Can you see Him? Can you **hear** the wonder of the awe-filled power in His voice when Jesus speaks to **dead** souls commanding them to **hear** and **live**? Do you remember in that still quiet moment when Jesus first spoke into your ears and you heard **the voice of the Son of God** speaking to you and making you **hear** and **live**?

He says to us, “**hear** My words! Believe in Him who sent Me! Arise and follow Me!”

“Truly, truly I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.”

Those Who Hear Will Live (v.25)

Jesus says to those who are persecuting Him and seeking all the more to kill Him that **those who hear His voice will live.**

So what does it mean to **hear and live**? Jesus says, “**My sheep hear My voice and I know them and they** what? **Follow Me!** Listen, those who do not follow the Shepherd are not His sheep.

I named New Life Church New Life because this is what I was seeing in the lives of the people of Memphis, the Mid-South...they had no life! They were and are like sheep without a shepherd overtaken by the wolves of the world and their own lustful thoughts and desires, but at the very same time most of these people claim to have Jesus as their Shepherd. It’s a lie. They are deceived. They do not **hear**; they do not live; and they do not follow after the Shepherd.

Therefore they have no life at all in Him. They have never had new life! They remain spiritually **dead**.

So to **hear His voice** and to have **life** in His name should be of utmost importance to us.

John 10.10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

How many of you know this morning that Jesus really wants you to **live**? How many of you know that Jesus really wants you to have life? But where? In Him!

Jesus desires for all His sheep to have abundant life in Him. Abundant life...is that life that overflows with overflowing life in Christ. Have you **heard the voice of the Son of God**? Do you have life/abundant life in Him? Is your life characterized by overflowing life that overflows with life in Christ?

The very first thing that happens to a person **who hears the voice of the Son of God** is resurrection. God **the Father** working in the works of His **Son** and by the empowering power of the Holy Spirit makes **dead** men **live** through the awe-filled power of **the voice of the Son of God**.

When Jesus tells these people who are persecuting Him and wanting to kill Him that **the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live**, He's testifying to everyone of them that they are **dead** people and need resurrection. He's exposing to them their **deadness**. He's exposing to them their need for resurrection and that there's only One who can speak that kind of power in them. It is **the voice of the Son of God!**

Do you **hear His voice**? Do you **live**? Have you been spiritually resurrected? Do you **live** life in His abundance? Then how much life is there to be had in this eternal life in Christ for you?

You know, one of the many things that pains us deeply are those who have no life at all, but are self-assured that they have all the life in the world and also claim to have Jesus as their own.

Listen, we must pray for the miracle of ears to **hear the voice of the Son of God**. Because when ears genuinely **hear the voice of the Son of God**... people are resurrected to new life and they **live!**

So how is it that **the Son** can generate resurrection life by His **voice**?

The Son Has Life In Himself (v.26)

“For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.”

So how is it that **the Son** can generate resurrection life by His **voice**? Because **the Son has life in Himself**. D.A. Carson writes, “Like God, Jesus **has life in himself**. God is self-existent; he is always ‘the living God’.

Life finds its origin not in creation, but in the Creator. **Life** flows from and out of **The Life!** Jesus says, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”** So **just as the Father has life in Himself**, Jesus claims to have that same **life in Himself**.

A.W. Pink quoting John Brown says of life, “It belongs to His nature; He has received it from no one; it is an essential attribute of His necessarily existing nature; He so has life that He can impart, withdraw, and restore it to whomever He pleases. He is the fountain of life. All in heaven and in earth who have life, have received it from Him. They have not life in themselves.”

We studied the origin of life in **John 1**. **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life and the life was the light of men.”**

But Jesus says “**the Father gave to the Son also to have life in Himself.**” That sounds a bit like Jesus didn’t have **life** and was **given life in Himself**. What does Jesus mean? Well the meaning is in the word *gave*.

The Father gave to the Son to have life in Himself in the sense that **the Father gave**, He bestowed, He granted, He appointed this to Jesus. **The Father gave** to Jesus to be the special agent by which all **life** would **live** and have its origin. Both physical and spiritual. **The Father gave** this to Jesus, the Second Person of the God-Head.

So once again we should see very clearly Jesus claiming oneness with **God the Father**. All Jews would have known that **life** originates in **God**. But Jesus is saying to them that I am able to generate resurrection power in my **voice** into **dead** man’s ears and lives because I am the **life**. I have **life in Myself**.

This is one of the sweetest blessings for those of us who have heard the voice of the Son of God and live today! You see, when Jesus speaks to you and you **hear**, we already know that your **hearing His voice** is by divine ability given to you. But what is supremely wrapped up into your hearing His voice is also life.

And here’s the sweet blessing from this truth...Jesus doesn’t simply just give you life. He gives you His life. He imparts Himself in you. Where is life again? In Himself. So to have life, eternal life, abundant life is to have Jesus’ life in you! He imparts Himself to you personally.

Further more, you don’t simply just have peace; you have His peace. My peace I give to you. You don’t simply just have glory; you have His glory. My glory I give to you. You don’t simply just have joy; you have His joy. My joy I give to you.

When you **hear his voice**, you are not simply just made to **hear** and made to **live**, but you are given **life** out of **The Life**. He is the fountain of **life**. All of your new **life** is in Him! From Him! Through Him!

Do you see why your **life** is not your own? It's His **life** in you. Your **life** is His **life**! Your peace is His peace! Your joy is His joy! Your glory is His glory!

This is how much Jesus loves you. He not only gives you these things, but He gives you Himself in these things. He imparts Himself to you. This is divine **life** impartation. It is an imparting of a Person into you.

This is why obedience is not an option for you. When the **Life** Giver gives you **life** and then demands that your **life** is lived a certain way...this is why there is no contradiction with the demand. Your **life** is His **life**.

Paul would say it to the Colossians like this... **“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on the earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”** (Colossians 3.1-4)

Is Jesus Christ your **life**? I believe that can be absorbed into two different things that are really one thing. Is Jesus Christ your **life**...in the sense that your spiritual **life** is from Jesus' **life** and your physical **life** is lived for Jesus Christ. Christ is your **life**! My **life** is hidden with Christ why because have died to myself and no longer live for myself but for Him who has given Me **life** and He sits at the right hand of God therefore my mind is fixed on Him, so that my life is raised up with Him.

He is my **life**!

“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;”

What do the **dead** need to hear from **the voice of the Son of God**? They need to **hear** that He is the Savior. They need to **hear** that He is the Christ, the Son of God. They need to **hear** that the Son of God was murdered on an old rugged cross two-thousand years ago. And in that cross moment the wrath of God was upon the Son of God in order to appease the wrath of God, so that you might escape the judgment of God for your sin.

They need to hear that there is salvation in no one else but Jesus Christ. And apart from Jesus and Jesus alone you will face damnation for all eternity in hell. Where the wrath of Almighty God will abide on you forever and ever and ever.

They need to hear this. But how will they hear without a preacher? How will they hear unless someone tells them? How? You must speak the words of Christ and they will hear and faith will come to them by hearing and hearing the word of Christ.

I've heard most of my Christian life that Christians are the hands and the feet of Jesus. We care for the hurting and tenderly minister to those who are sick. And this is most certainly true, but I never really hear anyone say Christians are the hands and feet of Jesus and the mouth of Jesus.

How will those that you know who face an eternal judgment ever hear unless you tell them?

You see, if you have Christ's life, then the life He gives is a life that desires other's to have life in Him. There's no other way! There's no other way to hear and to live than by the voice of the Son of God. Speak the words of life into others and let's pray for the miracle of hearing and living!