

What I Believe About Jesus Christ

Sunday, July 17th, 1988

John 5: 17-29

“But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore, the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father, which hath sent him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

In this message today, I am going to be speaking from John Chapter Five. There are several verses, beginning with verses 17 through 29 that I will be using. I would like very much for you to read carefully and prayerfully. If you are able to do so, take down some notes. I am going to be speaking to you on the subject: “WHAT I BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS OF NAZARETH.” I am going to be speaking from John 5:17 and going through to verse 29.

Outwardly, to the human eye, Jesus of Nazareth appeared to be just an ordinary Man. We see pictures of Jesus Christ and they will have halos over His head and some kind of light shining from His face or from behind His head. That is not the case; in fact, Isaiah in Chapter 53: verses 2-3, speaking of Christ, this is a Messianic prophecy.

Speaking of Christ, Isaiah said; *“He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: And we hid as it were our faces from Him.”*

Instead of being attracted to Him, *“We hid as it were, our faces from Him. He was despised and we esteemed Him not.”*

Jesus of Nazareth was born to a very poor, unknown, and unrecognized family. I know that Mary and Joseph were both of the house and lineage of David and from the nation of Israel.

When Mary and Joseph came to Bethlehem, Mary was nine months with Child, and expecting that Child any moment. *“There was no room for them in the Inn.”* They had to go to a stable, a manger. There, He was born in a stable and laid in a manger. He was surrounded by animals.

When He was just a few weeks old, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him to take the Child and go down into Egypt. By night, they slipped out and he carried Mary and the Infant into Egypt to escape the wrath of King Herod.

Jesus Christ grew up. When they came back from Egypt, they were told to stop in a little town called Nazareth. There Jesus was brought up in a small, out-of-the-way town called Nazareth, working as a carpenter. He was earning His living by the sweat of His brow. In fact, they called Him; *“The carpenter.”*

Outwardly, to the human eye, He was just an ordinary man. He, like other boys in the town, had brothers and sisters. Mary had other children after Christ was born. Christ was born before Mary knew a man. He was virgin-born, the Son of God. After He was born, she had other children. The Scripture says, *“Even His brothers did not believe on Him.”*

This man, Jesus of Nazareth, began His public ministry at 30 years of age. He was attended by 12 ordinary men, Peter, James, John, and Matthew. None of them were of great promise. None of them were influential, powerful leaders or religious leaders. They were just 12 ordinary men. They walked with Him, and ministered with Him and to Him.

The power of God was upon this Man. Jesus of Nazareth spoke with the authority of God. That is what they said about Him. *“He spake as no man has ever spoken.”* He preformed miracles such as no man had ever done. Nicodemus, the Pharisee, said; *“No man could do what You do, except God be with Him.”*

Yet, in spite of this; His claims were rejected by all the recognized leaders of Israel. Everybody who was anybody turned thumbs down on Jesus Christ. He said, *“I am the*

Messiah.” Do you remember when He told the woman that at the well? She said, “*When the Messiah comes, He will show us all things.*” He said, “*I that speak to thee am He.*” He told them that He was the Redeemer of Israel. He said, “*I’m come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly.*”

Yet, they rose up against Him. Popular opinion turned against Jesus of Nazareth. The mob brought Him to Pilate, urged on by the religious leaders. They asked Pilate to put Him on trial for treason. Pilate said, “*What hath He done?*” They said, “*He says that He is a King.*” So, Pilate delivered Him to the soldiers. Roman soldiers were the cruelest of cruel people. They were professional soldiers. They were bloody men, bloodthirsty men.

They took Jesus Christ, Jesus of Nazareth and sported with Him through the evening. They brought Him there to the soldier’s hall. First, they scourged Him with 39 stripes (or lashes) with a whip. They took His robe off of Him, and put an old scarlet robe on His shoulders, a reed in His hand and a crown of thorns on His brow.

They said, “If you are King, you need a crown, if you are King, you need a robe, and if you are King, you need a scepter.” They sat Him on a stool and they bowed before Him and ridiculed and made fun of Him. The Scripture says, “*They plucked out His beard, blind-folded Him and they hit Him in the face with their fists.*” Then they said, “*Prophecy who struck You.*”

After they had their fun and beat Him, mocked Him, ridiculed Him and He had suffered at their hands, they brought Him back before Pilate. As Jesus was standing there before them in Nazareth with the crown of thorn, the scepter in His hand and His mocking robe, Pilate turned to the people and said; “*Behold your King.*”

They said, “*We have no King, but Caesar.*” Pilate still wanted to get this Man off his hands. He said that it was customary this time of year to have a prisoner released. They said, “We have a prisoner, and his name is Barabbas.” He is a noted criminal and convicted criminal. “*Whom shall I release unto you, Barabbas or Jesus, which is called the Christ?*” They said, “*Give us Barabbas.*” Pilate said, “*What shall I do with Jesus, which is called Christ?*” They said, “*Let Him be crucified.*”

They nailed Him on a cross between two thieves, and danced about the cross. A multitude of people were there, but no man stood with Him. His disciples had forsook Him and fled. Even the Heavenly Father deserted Him as He was hanging on that cruel cross. They laughed about the cross, and shot out their lips. They said, “*He believed in*

God; let's see if God will have Him. If you be the Christ, come down from the cross and we will believe you." They said all of these things.

Finally, Jesus of Nazareth died on that cross. They took Him down from the cross and placed Him in the borrowed tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. That was the last that the world saw of Him, but believers saw Him again; He arose again. He appeared to His disciples and 500 brethren at once, but the world never saw Him again.

My question is this, "Who is this Jesus of Nazareth?" Who is this Man called Jesus? What do we have to do with Him? If you have your Bible, turn to John Chapter Five. I want to read some Scripture and tell you what I believe about Jesus of Nazareth, what I believe about this "*Man of sorrows acquainted with grief,*" this Man, Jesus Christ that had "*no form or comeliness, no beauty that we should desire Him.*" I am talking about this Man of whom the Scripture says, "*We hid as it were, our faces from Him. He is despised and rejected of men.*"

Let me tell you what I believe about Him. Jot these things down if you want to. In verse 17 and 18 of John Chapter Five, I believe first of all; Jesus of Nazareth is God Almighty in human flesh. That is what the Word of God teaches. I am not talking about a son of God, or a messenger of God, though He is. The Scripture says, "*Behold My Servant in whom My soul delighteth. Behold the messenger of the Covenant.*" Behold, He is the Son of God. He is verily God Almighty. That's right!

Read with me what He says here in John 5:17. This is the Scripture that you are looking at. He said this, "*My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*" What is He saying when He says, "*My Father and I work?*" They knew what He was saying. Right then, the Jews sought to kill Him, because He made Himself equal with God. "*He thought it not robbery to be equal with God.*"

Isaiah 7:14 declares this; "*Behold, the Lord Himself shall give you a sign, a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a Son and thou shalt call His name Immanuel,*" (God with us). That is quoted in Matthew One in the New Testament.

Isaiah 9:6 declares this; "*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*"

First Timothy 3:16 declares this; "*Great is the mystery of Godliness; God was manifest in human flesh.*"

Second Corinthians 5:19 declares, *“God was in Christ.”* What are you saying preacher? I am saying this, Jesus of Nazareth is God Almighty whom the heavens cannot contain. Yet, He came down to this earth in human flesh. *“To the Son, He saith; Thy throne O God is forever.”*

In other words, the Ancient of Days became an Infant of Days. He who made woman, was made of a woman. He who made the sun, worked as a carpenter by candlelight. He, who made the fields of wheat, fasted and went without food. He who made the rivers, from the cross cried, *“I thirst.”* He who made the trees planted that one on which they nailed Him. Even the ore from which they made the nails that were driven into His hands, that was made by Him. His hands dug the cave in which He laid.

Jesus of Nazareth is the only Man who picked out His own mother. He chose the day, the hour and the place where He would be born. He chose the nation. He is the only One who set the bounds of His life, the years that He would live. He chose the place that He would die, the time that He would die, and then laid down His own life and raised it from the tomb.

John wrote in John 1:14, *“The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

What do I believe about Jesus of Nazareth? I believe what everyone has to believe who believes Him; He is God. He said, *“I and My Father are One.”*

Second: I believe that the love of the Father is upon the Son, Jesus Christ. It is upon the Son, it is in the Son and it is through the Son. Look at verse 20: *“For the Father loveth the Son and showeth Him all things that He Himself doeth.”* Look at John 3:35, it practically says the same thing; *“The Father loveth the Son and hath given all things into His hands.”* When our Lord was baptized, the Voice came from heaven; *“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”*

Think with me for a moment. What is the love of God? Well, the love of God is infinite; that is, the love of God hath neither depth nor height; it is infinite. The love of God is everlasting. The love of God is unchanging. The love of God is a Holy love. That love of God rests upon and in Jesus Christ. That is what Paul wrote in Romans 8. Paul said, *“Nothing can separate us from the love of God,”* which is where? It is in Christ Jesus our Lord. The love of God is in Christ Jesus.

The Scripture plainly declares that *“God is angry with the wicked.”* The Scripture plainly declares that *“God hateth the workers of iniquity.”* Now, watch this; *“He that believeth*

not on the Son the wrath of God abideth on him.” The what? Not the love of God, the wrath of God. *“The wrath of God abideth on him.”*

Outside of Christ, the Scripture says here, *“The Father loveth the Son.”* That is where God’s love is; it is in Christ, upon Christ and through Christ. That’s right! Outside of Christ, there is wrath and judgment and condemnation. *“There is no condemnation to them who are in Christ.”*

Those in Noah’s day found this out. There is the ark floating on the water. That is the object of God’s love. Outside of the ark is nothing but wrath, judgment and condemnation. Sodom and Gomorrah found it out. God, by His love lifted Lot out and then destroyed the city. Jerusalem found it out. After Christ had been crucified and risen and several years later, the Romans came in and totally destroyed Jerusalem. Someone said, “Sowed salt upon the soil.” All men shall some day, (those out of Christ), will find out about the wrath of God.

I’m saying that *“The Father loveth the Son.”* I am saying, God’s love is a holy love, an infinite love, and everlasting love and an unchanging love. That love is upon Christ Jesus and is in Christ Jesus and is through Christ Jesus. Outside of Christ, no man has any right or reason to claim the love of God; it is in Christ. That’s true!

Some people say, “Well; I don’t believe that a loving God will send men to hell.” He won’t. A God of anger and a God of wrath, judgment and holiness will condemn men, but not condemn men in Christ. *“There is no condemnation to them who are in Christ. Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ.”* We are foolish to think that we are objects of God’s love when we are resisting, rejecting and rebelling against God’s Son whom He loves.

Watch the third thing in verse 21: *“Jesus Christ quickens whom He will.”* It says in verse 21, read it there; *“For the Father raiseth up the dead and quickeneth them. Even so the Son quickeneth whom He will.”*

Well, now, preacher; what is this talking about? Is this talking about the resurrection from the dead? No! This is a spiritual resurrection. You will see that in verse 25 and verse 26. Look down at verse 25 and 26: *“The hour is coming, and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they that hear shall live.”* All do not hear, but this is for those that do hear.

This is not the general resurrection and this is not the resurrection of all men; this is a spiritual resurrection. Men are dead in trespasses and sin. The general resurrection is not

now; it will be when Christ comes. Right now, this is a spiritual resurrection, *“They that hear the voice of the Son of God shall live. For, as the Father hath life in Himself, so has He given to the Son to have life in Himself.”*

All men are dead in Adam. They are dead in trespasses and sin. What does the Scripture say in Romans 5:12? *“By one man sin entered the world and death by sin. So, death passed upon all men. You hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sin.”* We are already quickened. We have life by the power of God.

So, what Christ is saying here is this; He will quicken whom He will. He will save whom He will. He will give life to whom He will. *“The Son quickeneth whom He will. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious.”*

Our Lord went down into Samaria and He chose a Samaritan woman and saved her. He met her deliberately at the well. He went down into Bethany and He called Mary, Martha and Lazarus. He went down into the land of the Gadarenes and there He delivered a wild demon-possessed man.

He went down into Jericho, was surrounded by people and called Zacchaeus.

He went to the cross and called one thief. The leper sums it up when he came to Christ and fell on his face worshipping Him. He said, *“Lord, if you will; you can make me whole.”*

Our God’s hands are not tied. He said, *“My ear’s not heavy that I can’t hear. My arm’s not short that I cannot save. Cannot I do with my own what I will?”* The God of the Bible, the God of the universe, the God who came to this earth, as Jesus Christ the Lord, is able to save whom He will. The Son quickens, He makes alive, redeems and begets whom He will. *“Of His own will begat He us with the Word of Truth.”*

Here is the next one now in verse 22: The destiny of all men is in the hands of Jesus Christ. Read verse 22; *“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment to the Son.”* The faith and destiny of all men is in the hands of Jesus Christ.

That is not what we are hearing today. Today they are asking, “What would you do with Jesus?” You are not going to do anything with Jesus, not a thing in the world. He came into this world and we crucified Him. God raised Him from the dead and exalted Him at His right hand where He declared *“Thy enemies shall be made Thy footstool. Sit Thou on my right hand until I make thine enemies Thy footstool.”*

The question is not, what shall I do with Jesus. The question is, what is He going to do with me? He has all power over all flesh. He prayed that in John 17, He said; *“Father, Thou hast given Me authority over all flesh that I should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Me.”* The judgment of believers is in Christ. Christ hath born our sins, our sorrows, our guilt and He has paid our debt.

Our judgment is in Him. *“There is therefore, now, no judgment to them who are in Christ.”* Christ has taken our judgment. There is no judgment. He is our judgment. He has met every debt, paid every debt, satisfied the law, the holiness and the justice of God and there is no condemnation, no judgment. We stand before judgment, but Christ has already borne it.

But, the judgment of every other man is in the hands of Christ, because *“God hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world by Jesus Christ.”* Men who stand at that great day of judgment, shall be denied and rejected because they cannot come up to that righteousness of Christ. He is the measurement. He is the Judge and He is the Judgment.

Now, watch verse 23: I believe that Jesus Christ shall have all honor, glory and preeminence. It says in verse 23, *“All men should honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son, honoreth not the Father which has sent Him.”*

Let me tell you something, Jesus Christ and God the Father are One in essence; they are One in power and they are One in purpose. It is impossible to honor the Father, and not honor the Son equally. It is impossible to know the Father, and to not know the Son, because they are One. It is impossible to worship the Father, and not worship the Son. It is impossible to come to the Father, except in the Son. He said, *“No man cometh to the Father but by Me.”*

Jesus Christ is God in essence, in power and purpose; they are One. God said, *“Let all the Holy angels worship Him. To the Son, He saith; Thy throne O God is forever.”* He is going to have the honor and the power.

“God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess, that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father.” God hath given all things into His hands that in all things He might have the preeminence. I believe that all men shall honor the Son, as they honor the Father.

In the sixth place, verse 24; look at it: I believe all who hear His Word and believe on Him, Jesus of Nazareth *“Will have everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life.”* What does that say? Look at it again, Christ said, *“He that heareth My Word. God who at sundry times and in divers manners, spake to us by the prophets has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.”* He spake to the Fathers by the prophets and He has spoken by His Son.

Hear His Word; hear the Words of Christ. *“Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. I am come that you might have life and have it more abundantly. Ho, everyone that thirsteth; come to the Son, come to the water, come and drink.”*

“He that heareth My Words and believeth on the Father, who sent Him, hath eternal life.” He is eternal life, who believes on the Son who came, who believes who He is, what He did and why He did it. To those who believe where He is now, *“Hath eternal life.”* You have the divine life, the life of God and *“Shall never come into judgment, but is passed from death unto life.”*

Do you marvel at this? He said, in verse 28: *“Do you marvel at this? The hour is coming when everybody who has ever died, shall hear the voice of the Son of God and come forth from the grave.”*