

Six Serious Charges Against Unbelief

Sunday, December 24th, 1998

John 5: 17-47

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. (18) 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. (19) 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. (20) For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. (21) For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. (22) For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: (23) That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him. (24) 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. (25) 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. (26) For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; (27) And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. (28) Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, (29) 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. (30) I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. (31) If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. (32) There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. (33) Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. (34) But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. (35) He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. (36) But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. (37) And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. (38) And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. (39) Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. (40) And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. (41) I receive not honor from men. (42) But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. (43) I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. (44) How can ye believe, which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that cometh from God only?

(45) Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. (46) For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. (47) But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

I'm going to bring a message today, from the Book of John Chapter Five. If you want to follow along in your Bible, open it now, to the Fifth Chapter of John. I'm going to do like I did last week and go verse-by-verse, almost phrase-by-phrase, through several verses of this Chapter. My subject for today is: "SIX SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST UNBELIEF."

Someone had written many years ago, that the theme of Matthew's writings is Jesus Christ, the Son of David, and King of the Jews. That does seem to be the theme through the Book of Matthew. The theme through the Book of Mark is Jesus Christ the Servant. Mark presents Christ as the servant. In the Book of Luke, the theme of Luke's writings seems to be Jesus Christ, the Son of Man. John's gospel has a definite theme. The gospel of John and the writings of John set forth Jesus Christ the Son of God.

He says in John 1:1-2 and 14; *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God, and all things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. And the Word, the Son of God, was made flesh and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and full of truth."*

Here, in John 5, the Master Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ, so clearly reveals Himself as the Son of the Father, the Son of God. It is so clear that He reveals Himself as the Son of God. He reveals Himself, His office, His attributes, His character and the proof of it.

Then, He brings six serious charges against all unbelievers. I want to get to that in this message. I'm going to show you a few things and the proof of it. Then, I'm going to get to these six solemn and serious charges that He brings against unbelief. Open your Bible to John 5 and look at verses 17 and 18.

In verse 17, the Lord Jesus speaks and says; *"My Father worketh hitherto and I work."* My Father works and I work. What is the work of redemption? What is the work of the Father? What is the work of redemption and covenant mercies of the kingdom of God? That is the work of God. *"Known unto God are all His works from the beginning. We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus."* So, He says; *"My Father's work is My Work. I must be about my Father's business."* The work of the Father and the work of the Son are one because it is said, *"I and My Father are one."*

All right, look at verse 21: He says, *“The Father raiseth up the dead and quickeneth them.”* He is talking about spiritual life; this is the quickening of sinners from deadness in sin. *“You hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sin.”* He said, *“As the Father quickeneth the dead and giveth them life, even so, the Son quickens and gives life to whom He will.”*

Salvation, the new birth and spiritual life are the work of God. *“Salvation is of the Lord.”* Salvation, the new birth and spiritual life are by the will of the Father. *“We are born, not by the will of the flesh or by the will of man, but by the will of God.”* The new birth is by the will of God. Spiritual life is the work and the will of God. He said, *“I will be merciful to whom I will be merciful.”* He also said, *“My Father quickeneth the dead, even so the Son quickeneth whom He will.”*

He said, *“The Father works and I work.”* The Father has power to give life; I have power to give life. Look at verse 22, *“The Father hath committed all judgment to the Son.”* I am talking about all judgment. He said, *“The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment to the Son.”*

In other words, I hate to use the word fate but the fate (or destiny) of every human being is in the hands of Jesus Christ. God has committed all judgment, all righteousness, and all final authority into the hands of Jesus Christ. That is what He says here, *“The Father judgeth no man but He hath committed all judgment to the Son. The Father loveth the Son and hath put all things in His hands.”*

In John 17, He says this in verse 2; *“Thou hast given Me authority over all flesh.”* I am talking about everything; the kingdom, the covenant and the creature are in the hands of Christ. Everything is in His hands. *“God hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world by that man Jesus Christ whom He hath appointed and He hath given proof of it in that He raised Him from the dead.”*

In other words, I am saying this and this is what Christ is saying; where a man stands in the judgment depends on his relationship to Jesus Christ. How a man stands in the judgment and what a man meets up with in the judgment, all depends on whether he is in Christ. *“He that hath the Son hath life; He that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”* Do you see what He is saying?

The Master reveals Himself as the Son of God. He said, *“My Father works; I work.”* The work of the Father is the work of the Son. *“My Father quickeneth whom He will. My Father giveth life and raiseth up the dead, (to whom He will). Even so, “The Son*

quickeneth whom He will.” *“The Father judgeth no man.”* He has committed all judgment to the Son. In other words, whom will we stand before at the judgment? We will stand before Christ. *“All judgment is in His hands.”* He is the Lamb on the throne. *“He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lamb in the midst of the throne as it had been slain.”* That is Christ! He has *“All authority in heaven and earth.”*

In verse 23: *“He that honoreth not the Son, honoreth not the Father who sent Him.”* There is no way to honor the Father if you do not honor the Son; they are one. *“My Father works; I work.”* My Father quickens the dead; I quicken the dead. My Father judgeth no man; I am the Judge. My Father hath committed all judgment to Me. *“He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father that sent Him. No man knows God except the Son and he to whom the Son will reveal Him.”*

Have you ever seen God? *“No man has seen God at anytime,”* the scripture says. *“He dwells in a light which no man can approach.”* Who has seen Him? The Son has seen Him. How can we see Him, He that seeth the Son? That is what He told His disciples, *“I and My Father are one. He that seeth Me seeth the Father. He that knoweth Me, knoweth the Father.”*

No man can honor, worship or please God except by faith in, love for, and devotion to His Son. That is what it says right here. *“He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father who sent Him.”* It is literally, absolutely, and Biblically impossible to know God apart from Jesus Christ. He is the revelation of God. *“God spoke to our Fathers by the prophets. In these last days has spoken to us by His Son.”*

Now, look at verse 24: My, what awesome claims and yet claims that are true. In verse 24, He says; *“He that heareth My Word.”* My Father works; I work. My Father gives life to whom He will. The Son gives life to whom He will. *“My Father judgeth no man; all judgment is in My hands. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father.”*

God the Father prepared a body for Jesus Christ to dwell in. In Hebrews 10 it says, *“Thou hast prepared Me a body; Lo, I come in the volume of the Book it is written of Me to do Thy will, O God, by the which will we are sanctified once for all by the offering of the body of Jesus Christ.”* The Father prepared Him a body. The Father sent Him into the world. The Father gave Him a work to do. The Father commissioned and anointed Him as the Christ, the Redeemer of sinners. He said, *“He that believeth and heareth My Word and believes on Him that sent me, (Jehovah God, the Just God and Saviour); he has everlasting life.”*

The person who hears these words of Christ, and believes on Him also believes the Father that sent Him; to believe on the Father is to believe on the Son. To believe on the Son is to believe on the Father; they are one. *“He hath,”* right now, (h-a-t-h). One old country preacher said, “That spells got it!” That means that he has it, he has everlasting life and shall never come into condemnation. *“Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God and there is therefore, now, no condemnation to them who are in Christ.”* The reason is because *“He hath already passed from death unto life.”* Do you see that in verse 24? *“For as the Father hath life in Himself, so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself.”*

My friends; these are awesome claims aren't they? This man Jesus Christ said, “I'm one with God. I give eternal life to whom I will. I have all authority, all judgment in heaven and earth. I have all control over all things. If a man does not honor Me, he can't know God. If a man doesn't believe on Me and hear Me and follow Me, he will perish forever. If he does believe Me, he will have life everlasting.”

No man ever spoke like that. You know, messiahs have come and gone. There have been a lot of messiahs. There have been a lot of religious prophets and religious leaders. They have come and gone, these messiahs, and have set forth ways, means, works and systems of morality, by which men can find peace and find their way to God and find happiness.

This man Jesus Christ, He does not say, I'll show you how to get to God. He says, “Come to Me; I am God.” He doesn't say that He will show you a way by which you can earn life. He said, “Believe on Me; I am life.” Jesus Christ says, “All that do not know Me and love Me and believe Me, will perish.”

Now, I ask you this question. On what authority and by what reasons am I to believe the claims of Jesus Christ? When He made all of these claims, when He revealed His character and His attributes along with His oneness with the Father, His power and authority.

Well, look at verse 31; *“If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.”* He is saying what the Bible says all the way through, *“Let every Word be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses.”* Now, what is He saying? “If I bear witness of Myself and you have only My Word for these claims, My witness is not true, it is not to be heeded or not to be heard.”

Well, who are the witnesses? He starts giving them with John the Baptist in verse 33, *“Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.”* He was the forerunner. He

was the miraculous son of Zacharias and Elizabeth. He was sent to bear witness of Christ. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets. John the Baptist was the forerunner. He was miraculously conceived and miraculously born. He was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb. He said, "*Behold the Lamb of God.*" Jesus Christ is the Son of God. "To Him, give all the prophets witness." John the Baptist bore witness of Christ.

Then, in verse 36: He said, "*But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*" The blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the dead live. I'm not talking about this foolishness going on today about all these faith healers claiming to have the power to break crutches and so forth. When our Lord healed a man, he walked. When our Lord gave sight to the blind; they saw, when our Lord touched the coffin of that dead man; he lived. When the Lord commanded Lazarus to come forth, "*Lazarus came forth from the grave.*" Things were not put-on like the things that you are seeing going on today. Nicodemus said, "*No man could do what You do except God be with Him.*"

Notice verse 37; "*The Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.*" The Father hath bore witness of Him. At His birth, God hung a star over a manger and sent the angels down to announce His birth to the shepherds. At His baptism, God spake from heaven and said; "*This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.*" At His transfiguration, the Father spoke again and said; "*This is My Son; hear Him.*"

At His death, the sun refused to shine. "*The veil in the temple was rent in twain.*" The rocks quaked, and the dead rose. At His resurrection the angels came down and stood at His open tomb and said to the disciples; "*Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, He is risen.*" At His ascension, God sent the angels again and they said to the disciples; "*This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall also come in like manner as you have seen Him go.* Yes, the Father hath born witness of the Lord Jesus Christ. These are the three witnesses. These are three powerful witnesses, John the Baptist and all the Old Testament Prophets, the works that He did, and the Father Himself.

Then He says in verse 39, "*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*" The scriptures testify of Jesus Christ. They bear witness and testify of Him. You try to find anyone, anywhere who fulfills every picture, every type, and every pattern of the Old Testament and you will find the Messiah. He fulfilled every one of them. The seed of woman, the seed of Abraham, the

root of Jesse, the tribe of Judah, the son of David, born in Bethlehem. He was the Passover Lamb, the Rock smitten, the Serpent lifted up, and the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Passover, the Tabernacle, and the Priesthood. He is indeed, the Prophet, Priest and the King, He is the Lord Jesus Christ.

But, and here is the third part of the message. In the face of all of these claims, our Lord Jesus Christ says; *“I and the Father are one. As the Father quickeneth the dead, the Son quickeneth the dead. All judgment is in My hands. He that heareth Me and believeth on Me hath life.”*

There were these many witnesses. There was John the Baptist, the Old Testament prophets, the Father and the works that He did, the scriptures, and the undeniable witnesses. In the face of all these claims and certain proof of these claims by these very powerful witnesses; men did not then and do not now believe on Him. Therefore, He then brings six serious charges against unbelievers. He tells us who He is, what He did, and why He did it? He tells us about the witnesses, the clear and undeniable witnesses. They still said, *“Crucify Him; we will not have this man reign over us.”* So, He brings six serious charges against unbelief.

Here they are. He is talking to religious people. He is not talking to the harlots and the drunks and the Publicans. He is talking to religious folks. He says in verse 39, these six serious charges; *“You search the scriptures.”* You are busy studying the Bible. No question about it. These men who were listening to Him were Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees and Lawyers. They were searching and studying the scriptures. They were even teaching the scriptures. He said, *“In them, (in the scriptures) you think you have life, but they are they which testify of Me.”*

There is no life in the Bible. The life is in Christ! I have great love for the Word of God. I have great gratitude for the Word of God. The Bible is God’s Word but eternal life is not in the Bible. Eternal life is in Christ. The Bible didn’t die for me. The Bible wasn’t buried and rose again. Christ was buried and rose again. *“He bore my sins in His body on the tree.”*

There is no life in the law. There is no life in the ceremonies and there is no life in the knowledge of the Bible. Somebody may say, “I know my Bible.” Do you know Him of whom the Bible speaks? These fellows knew the Bible also. Life is in the Son of God; it is not in the Bible. Christ said, “You read the Bible, you quote the Bible, you study the Bible, you search the Bible but they are they which testify of Me.” But He says to them, *“You will not come to Me that you might have life.”*

You see; if a man reads the Bible and does not come to understand who Christ is and what Christ did and why Christ did it, that God may be just and justifier, and where Christ is, then he has read the Bible in vain. He has read it to no avail. He has searched it in vain. That is what He is saying to you; “You’ve searched the scriptures, you know about the feast, the laws, the tabernacle and the priesthood. You know all about these ceremonies, ordinances, baptism and the Lord’s Table.” But, do you know Him? Do you know Christ? The Bible testifies of Christ.

Watch this second charge in verse 40: He said, “*You will not come to Me that you might have life.*” One thing is clear, from the earlier scriptures; the Son of God is life; the Son of God has life in Himself and the Son of God gives life. If I want a drink of water, then I have to go to the fountain where the water is. If a man is going to have life, he has to go where life is. He is going to have to go to Him who is life.

People will come to a church. They will come to the front of a church. They will come to an altar. They will come to a denomination. They will come to a feast. They will come to a law, a system of doctrine and come to an experience. But they will not come to Christ. That is what is astounding. “*You will not come to Me.*” These are serious charges. He said, “You search the scriptures, you are studying the Bible, you are memorizing the Bible, but the Bible testifies of Me.” The Bible is a hymnbook, (H-I-M)! It is Christ and He says, “*You won’t come to Me that you might have life.*” Life is in a person.

What is it to come to Christ? He said, “*You won’t come to Me.*” What is it to come to Christ? He said, “*No man can come to Me except My Father draw him.*” What is it to come to Christ? It is to recognize Him for who He is. It is to address myself to Him and not to one of His preachers or soul-winners, counselors or to someone on a telephone. Go to Him! It is to address myself to Him as He is and as I am. It is to look away from everything else and everyone else and look to Christ alone. He said “*Look to Me and be saved.*” It is to look to Him and believe on Him.

It is to keep on coming to Him, but you won’t do it. You’ll go to the preacher, you’ll come up front, you’ll come out of the balcony, you will go to these big meetings and stream down to the front while they sing, “Just As I Am.” You’ll go down to the preacher or down to the front of a mourner’s bench. You’ll even go to a counselor. They don’t have salvation and they don’t have life. He said, “*You won’t come to Me. I’m the way the truth and the life,*” Christ said.

Here is the third charge: You don’t have the love of God in you. In verse 42, it says; “*But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.*” We have a lot of love of self

in us don't we? There is a lot of love for this world in us. *"Men love darkness rather than light."* We have a love for natural life but not the love of God.

What is the love of God? Well, it is the gift of God. *"It is the love of God shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit."* It is a love for God. It is to love God as God is. It is to love God as He is revealed in His Word. It is to love the true and living God. It is a sympathetic and compassionate love for others. It is the fruit of the Spirit of God. It is the love of God. You don't have the love of God in you; you have the love of self. That is the reason He told us to love others, if we love ourselves. We sure do love ourselves! But, the love of God is a love for God; it is a love of God and is a love from God.

Here is the fourth charge: in verse 43; *"I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."* He said. I come to reveal the Father, to manifest the Father. The Father sent Me. Christ says, "I've come to redeem a people and you won't receive Me. You receive Me not. If another comes in his own name you will receive Him."

I tell you what; people are quick to receive error. The more phony a con-man preacher is, the more that people will follow him. That's right! It is so sad in this day. People will accept so-called philosophers, religionists and every voice on the block. Christ said, *"You won't come to Me. I come in My Father's name and you won't come to Me. You won't receive Me. Let another come in his own name and him you will receive."*

What is the fifth charge? In verse 44, *"How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?"* You would rather have the honor and applause of the world. I will tell you this; the temporary honors, riches and applause of this world mean more to people than the favor of God Almighty. We like to see our name in the paper or our face on television or some recognition in some way. We want more money, more riches, more status, this, that and the other. We seek honor that comes from men and it is a fading, perishing, honor. *"We seek not the honor that comes from God."* That is a serious charge.

Last of all, in verses 46 and 47: He says, *"You believe not the writings of Moses. Had you believed Moses you would have believed Me; Moses wrote of Me."* Oh, we'll quote Moses but we don't believe him. Just like the preachers; I hear them quoting Luther, Calvin, and Spurgeon. They don't believe what those men preached. We quote Moses but we don't believe him. *"Moses wrote of Christ."*