

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT - PART 5
What Jesus taught about the judgment
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Preaching passage: Jn 5:19-24
Subject: What Jesus tells those who accept Him as the Son whom the Father has sent
Complement: they will not come into judgment but have passed from death into life.
Exegetical idea: Jesus tells those who accept Him as the Son whom the Father has sent that they will not come into judgment but have passed from death into life.
Homiletical idea: **For those who belong to Jesus, the judgment is good news!**
Purpose: To assure my hearers that for believers in Jesus Christ, the outcome of the judgment has already been settled. The judgment simply identifies all of those who belong to Jesus.

Introduction

When I was 12 years old, I had to stand before a judge. And let me tell you, I was shaking in my shoes. My knees were knocking together. Sweat was trickling down my back. Do you get the picture? And I hadn't even done anything wrong! I was simply called into court because someone had stolen my bicycle from the parking lot of the local swimming pool. But I can still remember that traumatic experience. I was only about this tall, and the judge was sitting way up above me, behind a huge wooden bench. He looked like a massive eagle perched up in a tree, ready to swoop down on me. And he had a big wooden mallet close to his right hand which could obviously be used to smite me on the head! It wasn't a very pleasant experience.

Many of us have grown up with similar thoughts of anxiety and fear about the final judgment. We have heard the messages of the three angels recorded in Revelation 14 which begin with the words, "Fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment has come" (Rev 14:7). We have heard the solemn warning of the apostle Paul that "we must all appear

before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor 5:10). It all sound very troubling, doesn't it?

This morning I want to consider with you what Jesus taught about the judgment. I believe that some of us may be pleasantly surprised to discover that what Jesus taught about the judgment is good news indeed!

Jesus clearly taught that there would be a day of judgment. Listen to His words recorded in Matt 11:21-24. “.....” There is no doubt from the teaching of Jesus that there will be a day of judgment. Jesus even taught that “for every idle word men (and women) may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.” Matt 12:36. You say, “Pastor, that doesn't sound like good news. That doesn't sound encouraging. What is the good news that Jesus taught about the judgment?”

Let's begin our search for the good news that Jesus taught about the judgment in the gospel of John, chapter 5. John 5:22. These are the words of Jesus concerning the judgment. Jesus tells us, “For the Father judges”.. how many? “The Father judges no one. Who then does the judging? Let's read on. “But has committed all judgment to the Son.” The first piece of good news that Jesus teaches about the judgment is that He is the judge.

Remember my anxious encounter with that judge who was perched up behind that huge wooden desk? Do you think I would have reacted differently if I had known that judge personally? Do you think I would have experienced different emotions if that judge had been my friend? Would it have made any difference if that judge had made an “I love you” sign at me, winked at me with a sparkle in his eye, and smiled at me? Of course it would have made a

difference. I wouldn't have been shaking in my shoes if I had know that the judge was my friend, that he cared for me, that he loved me.

Do you get my point? Jesus tells us, "There's something very important that I want to tell you about the judgment: I'm the judge. I'm in charge! I render the verdicts. That's good news my friends, what do you say? Our precious Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who loves us and gave Himself for us...He is the judge! The Father has committed all judgment to the Son.

Jesus tells a story about the time when the Son of Man will perform that work of judgment. And in that story, we learn another piece of good news that Jesus shares about the judgment. That story is recorded in Matt 25, beginning with verse 31. "....."

Now we need to be careful that we don't read too much into this story. This story is not teaching us how to be saved. We have carefully studied what Jesus taught about salvation in part 1 of this series on "What Jesus taught." We are saved when we look in faith to Jesus as our Savior and Lord. This story is not addressing the issue of HOW we are saved. But we can learn what happens in the final judgment. What does happen in the final judgment? The answer is simple. Jesus, the Son of Man, Son of God, the One to whom the Father has committed all judgment.....In the final judgment, Jesus identifies those who belong to Him. It's true that those who belong to Him have certain identifying characteristics. But that's not the reason they belong to Jesus. Rather, those characteristics reveal that they do indeed belong to Jesus. This story of the sheep and the goats teaches us that in the judgment, Jesus will identify those who belong to Him. Jesus knows those who belong to Him.

Back to my experience with the judge when I was 12 years old. Can you imagine how I would have felt if that judge had got me confused with the juvenile kleptomaniac who stole my

bike? That would have been devastating. Fortunately, even that earthly judge knew who was who. And I want to assure you today that Jesus, the righteous heavenly Judge know who is who as well. Jesus knows those who belong to Him.

Do you see this bird cage? It's full of birds. One of those birds belongs to I need a volunteer to guess which one belongs to Thank you, brother. Which one belongs to? Wrong. Try again. Wrong again! Come up here! Which one belongs to you? How did you know that? "Because it's mine!"

Do you get the point. Jesus knows those who belong to Him! I'm so glad that Jesus oversees the final judgment, and not someone else, aren't you? I hope I don't offend you this morning, but I'm so glad that you're not the one who identifies those who belong to Jesus. And I'm sure that you are equally glad that I'm not the one who identifies the ones who belongs to Jesus. Because man looks on the outward appearance, but where does God look? On the heart. If some of us looked at the woman crumpled up at Jesus' feet, we might have told her to go over and stand with the goats. But Jesus recognized that this beaten and bruised, used and abused woman at His feet was a lamb of His flock. I'm so glad that it's Jesus who identifies all those who are His, aren't you?

If some of us looked at the crooked IRS agent who appeared to have more money than morals, we might have told him to go over and stand with the goats. But Jesus recognized that this undersized wheeler and dealer up in the tree was a lamb of His flock. I'm so glad that it's Jesus who identifies all those who are His, aren't you?

If some of us looked at the foul-mouthed fisherman who seemed to change his allegiance more speedily than a quick-change artist, we might have told Peter to go over and stand with the

goats. But Jesus recognized that this feisty and flawed fire cracker was a lamb of His flock. I'm so glad that it's Jesus who identifies all those who are His, aren't you?

What have we learned so far from the teachings of Jesus about the judgment? First, Jesus is the judge. And that is good news! What do you say? Our precious Savior who loves us and gave Himself for us, who conquered death for us, who holds the keys of Hades and of death, who ever lives to make intercession for us, who soon will come to take us home, our precious Savior, Jesus Christ, is the judge. Secondly, we have learned that in the judgment, Jesus will identify those who belong to Him. If that's true, and I believe that it is, then the key issue is not how much we have done or even what we have done but who we belong to! If we belong to Jesus, our lives will bear the fruit of that connected with the Lord of Life. Amen. We won't have to try to be a little more "Christian." When we belong to Jesus, our lives will bear witness to that living connection with Him. And in the judgment, Jesus will identify all of those who belong to Him.

But there's a third piece of good news that Jesus teaches about the judgment. And it's the best news of all. In fact, it sounds too good to be true. But Jesus said it, and I believe that Jesus speaks the truth, don't you? This third piece of good news that Jesus teaches about the judgment is found back in John 5:24. Jesus tells His hearers on that Sabbath day in Jerusalem, and He also tells us today, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life.." You say, "Now, that is good news!" We can know with certainty that through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord we HAVE everlasting life! Amen. But Jesus isn't finished. "He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

Jesus says, “Those who hear My word....shall not come into judgment, but have passed from death into life.” What is the Word that we hear in order to have everlasting life and in order to not come into judgment? Is it a particular word that Jesus spoke, like the word LOVE, or FORGIVENESS, or PEACE? No. It’s not a particular word. It’s not even a particular combination of words. Jesus gives us the answer to our question. What is this Word that we need to hear? Look with me at John 6:47. “.....” The Word that we must hear is not a what, it’s a WHO. Jesus is the Word. We must hear the Word and believe in the One who sent Him. John tells us that “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” Jn 1:1-2,14 When we hear that Word, when we receive Jesus for who He is, the One who is full of grace and truth, sent from the Father, and believe in the One who sent Him, we have everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but have passed from death into life.

The KJV translates Jn 5:24 as follows, “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.” But it’s the same Greek word $\epsilon\lambda\gamma\chi\eta$ that’s used in Jn 5:22 “ For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all **judgment** unto the Son.” It’s the same Greek word $\epsilon\lambda\gamma\chi\eta$ used in Jn 5:26-27, “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.”

The translators of the KJV may have had difficulty with what Jesus was saying in Jn 5:24, but to be consistent, since the same Greek word is used in Jn 5:22, v24 and v27, it should

be translated consistently in each place. I believe that the NKJV and many other translations are correct when they translate the words of Jesus in Jn 5:24 as follows: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

Listen carefully to what I’m about to say. For the person who belongs to Jesus, the outcome of the judgment is already settled. For the man or woman, and boy or girl who belongs to Jesus, to use an American expression, the judgment is a done deal. You have already passed from death to life. Is that good news?! For those who belong to Jesus, the outcome of the judgment is already settled.

Do you remember the most difficult exam that you ever took in school—the one where you did really poorly? I do. It was the next year after my encounter with the judge. I was dropped into a physics class, and I was already a year behind when I started. I didn’t have a clue what was going on. It was like a different language. When I took the final exam at the end of the year, I knew I was in trouble. It still makes me wince when I think about that exam. I got a 37%, which needless to say, was not a passing grade. I crashed and burned! I wiped out! Do you remember the most difficult exam that you ever took? And you didn’t do that well? Now just imagine that a week before the test, the teacher said to you, “I’ve got some bad news and some good news for you. There is a difficult test next week. Only one person has ever passed it. That’s the bad news. (Hold up frowning Smiley). But here’s the good news. I’ve already taken the test for you and you made an A! (Hold up the happy Smiley).

Isn’t that good news? And the good news about the final judgment is this: for those who belong to Jesus, the outcome of the judgment is already settled. We have already passed from

death into life. We don't have to be anxious. We don't have to be afraid. Jesus, our precious Savior, who loves us and gave Himself for us—He is the judge. And in the judgment, Jesus will identify all those who belong to Him. And for those who belong to Him, the outcome of the judgment is already settled. That, my friends, is good news.

Perhaps there is someone here who is thinking, “Wait a minute! How is that possible that those who belong to Jesus can pass through the judgment that easily? How can a just and holy God just pass over all of our sins which are worthy of condemnation and death? The Gospel prophet Isaiah answered that question 700 years before the Son of God came to this earth. Speaking of the Messiah who was to come, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the prophet Isaiah writes, recorded in Isaiah 53:5-6, “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

When you belong to Jesus, the outcome of the judgment is already settled. It's true that the day of judgment is coming. It's true that we will all have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ. But we have discovered some good news this morning as we have considered what Jesus taught about the judgment. First, Jesus Himself is the Judge. I can't think of a more loving, a more compassion, a more merciful judge than Jesus, can you? Jesus Himself is the judge. Jesus, who loved us so much that He gave His own life to save us. Jesus, who ever lives to makes intercession for us. Jesus, who is soon to come again to receive us to Himself that where He is there we may be also. Jesus is the judge! That, my friends, is good news.

A second piece of good news that we've learned about the judgment is this: Jesus tells us

that in the judgment, He will identify all of those who belong to Him. He is the judge. The Father has committed all judgment to the Son. And Jesus knows those who belong to Him. Not one of those who belong to Jesus will be passed by. Jesus will identify all of those who belong to Him.

And the best news of all that Jesus taught about the judgment is this. Not only is Jesus Himself the judge, not only will He identify all those who belong to Him, but for those who belong to Jesus, the outcome of the judgment is already settled. It's a done deal! We don't have to wonder what the outcome of the judgment will be. Jesus says, "He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment but has passed from death into life." That's why, **for those who belong to Jesus, the judgment is good news!**

So let the day of judgment come! Let Jesus, the Righteous Judge take His seat. Let Him identify all of those who belong to Him. We do not need to be anxious. We do not need to be afraid. Jesus knows all of those who belong to Him. He knows those who hear His voice. We have already passed from death into life. In Jesus Christ, our case has already been heard. We shall not come into judgment. For those who belong to Jesus, the outcome of the judgment is already settled. **For those who belong to Jesus, the judgment is good news!** That's what Jesus taught about the judgment. And so I say, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." What do you say?

I'm wondering if there is someone here today who has been afraid of the final judgment. Maybe it's because you have never personally accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord. And you know that if you have to stand alone in the day of judgment, you are in deep trouble. You realize that you need a Savior. You need Jesus. You need to know that He will be your Judge. You

need to know that He will identify you as one of those who belong to Him. You need the assurance that because you belong to Jesus, the outcome of the judgment is already settled. Do you long for that assurance today? Then I want to invite you to receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord, and believe in the One who sent Him. And when you do that, the Bible says, you can not only know that you have everlasting life, but you can also know that you will not come into judgment but have passed from death into life. Remember, **for those who belong to Jesus, the judgment is good news.**

And for those of us who have received Jesus as our personal Savior, but we've been anxious about the judgment, accept the good news that Jesus taught about the judgment. There is no need to be anxious or afraid about the judgment. **For those who belong to Jesus, the judgment is good news.** Jesus is the Judge. He will identify those who belong to Him. And for those who belong to Jesus, the outcome of the judgment is already settled.

What Jesus taught about the judgment

1. Jesus Himself is _____.
2. Jesus will identify all those who _____.
3. For those who belong to Jesus, the outcome of the judgment _____.

Props:

Illustration #1 (standing before a judge): A large wooden chair with arms and a wooden gavel.

Illustration #2 (Jesus knows those who belong to Him): A group of animals or birds, probably in a cage. (I was thinking of a hamster or a parakeet). One of those belongs to a child/adult in the congregation, and that individual must be able to clearly distinguish which one belongs to him/her. I will ask a volunteer to identify (guess) which one belongs to that person and then ask the owner to tell us which one really belongs to him/her.

Illustration #3 (For the one who belongs to Jesus, the outcome of the judgment is already settled): Physics textbook, or any thick textbook. Inside the front cover of the textbook, place two pieces of cardstock with “Smileys” on them. One is a dull color with a frowning Smiley. The other is a bright yellow with a happy Smiley!