

John 5:25 – 47

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~ We entered Jerusalem by the sheep gate with Jesus in the last leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. We found an impotent man at Bethesda, hoping against hope to get into the water when it moved so he could be healed. We saw the Lord Jesus raise this man up - but He didn't help him into the pool. Jesus simply healed him - completely; and because it was done on the Sabbath day, the enemy was ready to accuse Him. The Pharisee's pressed the healed man to tell them who had allowed such a thing, but the man honestly didn't know Who had healed him. Remember, it was much later that Jesus found the man in the temple and told him to sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon him. Well, worse than thirty-eight years impotence? Okay. That should get our attention.

This healing incident marked the beginning of a movement that sent the Pharisee's into a rage of hatred and put them on the trail of murder. From here, they will not let up until they all fold their arms in pride watching Jesus die on the cross. Remember, they wanted to know the basis on which Jesus was doing these miracles. So, we examined three great principles that formed the foundation for verse twenty-four of this chapter. Jesus is God. He does what God does. That's a glorious invitation, and it's a good word of good news. God gives everyone life, friends. The Lord Jesus Christ raises the dead. So many people want to talk about healing today, but with the gift of healing came the ability to raise the dead; and the Lord Jesus is the only One Who has that power. The only reason He has that power is because He is God. When the Lord returns to this earth to establish His Kingdom, He will come as the judge of the earth - not a Savior. All Judgment is committed unto Him. If you'll believe in Him, you'll not come into judgment....

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.

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~ This is a tremendous statement in verse twenty-five. We are living in an age of dispensation that is moving towards a time when the dead shall hear the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. Remember, the Lord Jesus said to Lazarus' two sisters, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth on me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." When we say "dead," we mean spiritually dead. Spiritual death means total separation from God. We are dead in trespasses and sins before we are saved. Spiritually dead is mans natural condition. The Bible also says the day is coming when those who are in the grave shall hear His voice – but today – spiritually is what we're speaking of....

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.

~ We find two resurrections in Revelation after the rapture of the church. The first resurrection is of ALL saved people. The second resurrection is at the Great White Throne. That's when all the unsaved from all ages will be raised, and, because they wanted to be judged by their works, that's exactly what's going to happen to them. God is just and righteous, friends. They'll have their opportunity to present their case, but their mouths will be stopped, because of their own ignorance. They won't have anyone to plead for them and they will be just as lost as ever trying to argue against God....

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.

~ Here, we have the self-limitation in the humanity of Jesus as a man. Christ came into the world not to do His Own will but the Father's will. You and I have an old nature that is not obedient to God, neither can it be! The natural state of man is rebellion towards God. The Lord said to Nicodemus he must be born again because those who are in the flesh cannot please God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the spirit is spirit. We must have a re-birth because this old nature is incorrigible, communistic and completely rebellious towards all Heavenly matters. The old nature of mankind has carried a protest sign around the gates of Heaven ever since man went out of the gates of Paradise from the Garden of Eden....

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.

~ John did speak of the things of Christ, but Jesus is referring to the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit speaks ONLY of the things of Christ. Most people thought Jesus was referring to John, but He isn't. That would have made two human witnesses, too - which would have made it legal in court; but the Lord is definitely referring to the Holy Spirit here. Jesus has a higher witness than any testimony of man....

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.

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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.

~ The miracles Jesus performed were His credentials. Those people who make the claim to have the same power as Jesus down here, in my opinion, are blasphemers. These miracles attested to the fact that He was Who He claimed to be; and that's the only reason these gifts were extended to the early church - temporarily! They didn't have a New Testament Bible and printed tracts to hand out, so they needed credibility. The sign gifts gave credibility to the apostles later on. Quite frankly, if you don't believe in these miracles, you just don't believe the Bible. They get right down to the nitty-gritty of whether the Bible is, in fact, the Word of God. The numbers of the thousands of people that came to Him would have been staggering. Jesus didn't just put on a healing service and have people form a line and walk by Him and kissing His feet. No, friends, we see the Lord Jesus moving out on the roads and highways and right into the crowds. Moreover, Jesus didn't take any offerings, either. Make a note. As Jesus moved along, people were healed; and we learned in Mark how the Lord and the disciples were provided for....

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.

~ Verse thirty-nine is almost always misunderstood as it says to 'search the Scriptures.' That is not an imperative; it is written in the indicative. In other words, Jesus is saying, "YOU search the Scriptures...." Let's simplify this: you better be careful that you find Jesus in the Bible because, if you don't find Him, you will find the most horrible experience mankind will ever have. Friends, the Scriptures happen to speak of the Lord Jesus Christ; and if you don't get that straight first, then the Word of God will literally put you out....

40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

41 I receive not honour 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 honour one of another, and seek not the honour 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?

~ The world rejected Christ in His day; and antichrist is coming some day. The antichrist will come in his own name. He will have an image made to himself at that time. The world is desperately seeking the applause of men today. The church even strives to please men and not God; and that is, perhaps, problem number two in any church. Problem number one, of course, being a complete and total ignorance of the truth of the Word of God.

In the three Old Testament books we have considered thus far on safari we have emphatically stated that Moses spoke of the Lord Jesus Christ when he wrote. Here, Jesus confirms that to be true. I don't think we have found Jesus on every single page of Old Testament Scripture, but it doesn't mean we weren't looking for Him; and it doesn't mean He isn't there. Any attack on the Old Testament and its place, priority and position of Scripture is a direct attack on the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Many people make this mistake very foolishly. They question the Old Testament not even realizing

what they are doing. The Old Testament is the foundation of the Bible, my Christian friends.

So, our Spiritual Safari will observe as the Lord Jesus feeds five thousand hungry people in the next leg of our expedition. This is the last examination of this miracle we will consider on safari. I reluctantly leave this chapter. We have saved a detailed finale of the feeding of the five thousand for this Gospel account, and I hope you can go there with us in our next report ~

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