

John 5:19-29

19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

19 In verses 19 -29, Jesus expands on His previous claim to divinity. He humbled himself when found in fashion as a man and became obedient to the Father (Philippians 2:6-9). As our perfect example, He lived only for cooperation with the Father. Acting independently from the Father is sin. Jesus was saying He would not sin. Are you watching to see God at work around you? When you see it, it is your invitation to join Him in what He is doing.

20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

20 And the Father loves us too (John 3:16). Will He not show us what He is doing so that we can join Him too? That is why Jesus said we will do greater works (John 14:12). Jesus' cooperation with the Father's is so complete that to see Jesus is to see the Father (John 14:7, 10). Isn't that what we want God to do in our lives as well?

21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

21 Physical and spiritual! Son of the widow from Cana, the daughter in Capernaum, and Lazarus were three physical resurrections. We have no idea how many were transformed from spiritual death to life. That is even more important for it is eternal.

22 The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,

22 Jesus will be our judge. He understands what we experience and was tempted like we are, yet without sin. He knows who relies on His sacrifice and who does not. This was a radical statement. Imagine anyone else saying this!

23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

23 Divinity! Jesus is to be honored as God is honored because they are one. Honor one and you honor the other. They are inseparable.

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

24 Listen to Jesus and believe on God and you have eternal life. Why don't we use this verse to lead people to salvation? And what of those who do not hear Jesus because they did not live during his time on earth? Is His voice not one with that of the Spirit? - John 8:51; 1John 3:14

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

25 Ezekiel 37 - for His voice and the Spirit are one. As the voice He created all things. He speaks and they are. He can speak to the spiritually dry bones and they can come to life.

26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

26 Giver of life (Genesis 2:7). Radical! But Jesus proved it was true by raising the dead physically and spiritually.

27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

27 Judge of the world (Psalm 36:9). He reiterates verse 22. Son of Man (only used here without the article "the" which means He is referring to Daniel 7:13-14.)

28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice

28 Daniel 12:2 Where are the dead? Their spirits are with God or in torment, as Jesus illustrated with the parable of the rich man and another Lazarus. The bodies of the dead will be transformed and rise to be judged at the White Throne Judgment. If Jesus did not say Lazarus name - but simply "Come forth" - all the bodies of the dead would have risen!

29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

29 "Life" in this verse means to be with God eternally. The only way to be with Him is to be pure. The only way to be pure is through the cross. Jesus will finish what He started in perfecting us (Philippians 1:6). We have heard and received His words and believed in the Father. We have eternal life (vs 24). To do good is to accept salvation, He who is good. To do evil is to reject Him.

Jesus has made several uncompromising claims to deity in these verses. He is either crazy, a deceived egomaniac, or God. Does an egomaniac say He has come not to be served but to serve? Would an egomaniac wash the feet of his followers? Everyone must decide what they will do with Jesus. In the following passage He will defend these claims He has made.

Questions:

How can we spot God at work?

What work did Jesus say He would do to cause us to marvel?

Who is the Judge of all? Why do you think that is?

What did Jesus say was required to pass from death to life?

How will those who are physically dead come to life?

Have you passed from death to life?