



Sermon Series: John - The Word of Life - Part 26

Message: "I Am He"

Text: John 8:21-30

Date: 05/15/2022

- ★ John's purpose for writing was to connect people to Jesus! (John 20:30-31)
- ★ The Setting: The Festival of Tabernacles (Fall harvest celebration for Jews)

John 8:21-24

- (v22) "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He?" (NASB95)
 - The speaker expects that Jesus wouldn't really commit suicide
- (v23) "below" = the earth; a fallen, broken world
- (v23) "above" = heaven; sent by God the Father
 - Their perspective was limited / Jesus' perspective was unlimited
- (v24) "I am he" - Jesus claimed to be God!
 - (see Isaiah 41:4; Isaiah 43:10, 13, 25; Isaiah 46:4; Isaiah 48:12; Isaiah 51:12)

John 8:25-30

- (v25) "Who do you think you are?!" [scornfully emphatic]
- (v25) What has Jesus been telling them from the beginning?
 - See John 6:35, 6:38, 6:54, 7:37-38, 8:12
- (v28) "lifted up" - John has a double meaning...
 - means to exalt, speak highly of, elevate to a high status
 - Jesus was literally *lifted up*...
 - On the cross as a sacrifice for our sins
 - At His resurrection
 - At His ascension to the Father
- (v30) John's additional note was to encourage believers

⇒ When we put our faith in Jesus, He does not _____ us. He **adopts** us.

- See 1 Timothy 2:4; John 3:16; 1 John 5:13; Romans 8:15; Ephesians 1:5

⇒ What does knowing I have eternal life mean to me?

⇒ Eternal life starts at the moment of belief (John 17:3)

- Going Deeper -

For individual or small group study

1. **READ Romans 8:10-17.** How does verse 13 relate with John 8:24? The Greek word for “adoption to sonship” is a term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture. That means, just like today, when someone is adopted, they are 100% part of that family as if they had been born into it. Considering that, what does your adoption into God’s family mean to you?

2. **READ Matthew 7:13-14.** “Death” would be a synonym for “destruction” in verse 13. Why is the path of destruction so wide and sought after? Why do only a few find the narrow path that leads to life?

3. **READ Matthew 7:21-23.** What does it mean to do the will of God (Romans 12:1-2)? How is it possible that a person could be thinking they’re working for Jesus, but in reality they never *knew* Jesus (Isaiah 29:13, Matthew 15:8-9)?

4. **READ Matthew 25:31-46.** What about our actions seems to be really important to Jesus? Verse 46 could be translated: “entering into a state of everlasting punishment.” Why are the “unrighteous” given such a severe and everlasting consequence (Psalm 1)?

5. **READ Ezekiel 34:11-31.** Ezekiel lived during the time God’s people were exiled in Babylon (586 BC). This passage serves as an assurance from the Lord that they will return from exile. The Lord promises to be their Shepherd; to search for them; to rescue them; to provide for them (think Psalm 23). Verse 17 clearly relates to Matthew 25:31-46. Considering this...
 - a. Verse 23 talks about David... but in Ezekiel’s day, David died a long time ago. Who is God talking about when He says His “servant David”?
 - b. God’s judgment is more about loyalty and faithfulness than it is fairness. How does this relate to what Jesus asks of us?

Recommended Resources

Books:

- *NIV Faithlife Illustrated Study Bible*, christianbook.com, <https://bit.ly/3kxieXw>
- *Brief Insights on Mastering Bible Study*, by Dr. Michael Heiser

YouTube Videos:

- Overview: John 1-12, by Bible Project
- Overview: John 13-21, by Bible Project