

Week 1 - Jesus Is Life (John 5;19-29)
April 18&19, 2020
Crossroads Christian Church

Easter Celebration & COVID19 Update

-Welcome back to my home. So glad you are joining us today to worship our great God
-What a powerful experience we had last weekend on Easter as we joined with many other congregations as 1 church here in Evansville and worshipped our Risen Savior together
-Whether you joined us in the Eastland Mall parking lot or online, I hope you sensed the Spirit of God moving in a powerful way. If you missed it, you can find the service at cccgo.com [pics]
-I want to thank the other churches, those from our staff team, and several who volunteered to make that happen. It truly was a God honoring moment and a true gift from Him to get to gather in 1 place unified by our common faith in Jesus Christ, and to worship together

- Over 15 different congregations were represented
- Estimated 1,150 cars, over 11,000 viewers online, 2,239 likes/shares/comments online
- **40 decisions for Christ** (each being followed up with by a local congregation)

-This was truly an answer to years upon years of prayer for God to unify His church and we hope it is just the beginning with more to come in the future and something good God did!

-I hope you are healthy and being full of faith as we continue to walk through this challenging season impacted by COVID 19

-We continue to ask God's help to be full of faith, to be wise and healthy, and to love our neighbors well

-Thank you, church family, for continuing to engage with us in serving the needs of our church and community. You continue to be generous and servant-hearted during this time

-While our total giving as a church has declined, we continue to manage our expenses and steward all God has given us. Please continue to be faithful in your tithes and offerings

-Also, we are almost ½ way to our goal of raising \$250,000 to help meet COVID 19 related needs in our church family and community. Please consider giving above and beyond your normal giving.

-Over 95 volunteers from Crossroads are actively serving through the Need-a-Neighbor platform, living and loving like Jesus by serving others. Over 250 needs have been met!

-If you haven't signed up to volunteer yet, please do so. There are a several types of needs any one of us can respond to. My family and I have completed several projects, and in the process of blessing others, have found comfort and peace during this time.

-Visit cccgo.com/covid19 to register and then head to needaneighbor.org to serve

-You can also make a contribution to the Response Fund there as well.

-**We are currently asking for people to donate cleaning** & household supplies for our local partners. The specifics are listed at cccgo.com/covid19 under the opportunities to serve tab

-I'd like to pray and thank God for what He is doing in this time and ask Him to continue leading us.

PRAY

-Today, we are beginning a new teaching series in our year long journey through the Gospel of John entitled Jesus is _____. We are continuing to discover how we can live and love like Jesus.
-As we walk with Jesus through His earthly ministry, hear His teaching, see His miracles, and watch His interactions with people, we see a clearer picture of his identity and mission.
-We've encouraged you to journal throughout this year about what we are discovering about Jesus, so we could follow His example in obedience, and share what we learn with others.
-Today, we will see one of the most profound Christological statements made about Jesus' identity made in the entire New Testament, it's a claim made by Jesus himself!

-We actually are returning to an encounter Jesus is having already in progress found in John 5
-Turn there with me, and like Jeremy said earlier, if you don't have a copy of the Bible or would like a journal, let us know and we will bring one to you!

-Jesus travelled to Jerusalem to celebrate a religious festival there and visited a well-known destination called Bethesda, a spot where invalids, those who had some physical disability, would gather under the covering of 5 porches because of a superstition that the pool located there had healing power. People believed an angel would stir the water and the first person immediately in the water would be healed

-We don't know for sure if this ever happened, but when Jesus visited that day, he healed a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years.

-Jesus notices his condition, brings him physical healing, and addresses his spiritual condition

-All this happened on the Sabbath which caused Jesus to get into hot water with the religious leaders. They had interrogated the man Jesus healed because he was carrying the mat he had been lying on, on the Sabbath. They totally ignored the fact he had been healed

-The man told the religious leaders Jesus had instructed him to carry his mat and they turned their interrogation towards Jesus.

-Jesus addresses the real purpose of the Sabbath and then makes some powerful declarations about his identity and mission. That's where we enter the encounter today. Look at vs 17-18

JOHN 5:17-18

[man in woods cooking seagull, forest ranger gives warning, tastes like spotted owl/bald eagle]

-The attack of the religious leaders when ratcheted up several notches when Jesus not only violated their man-made laws about the Sabbath, but inferred he was equal with God

-Jesus doesn't back down 1 bit. Let's continue reading what He says to them

JOHN 5:19-27

-Jesus begins his response with the words, "very truly I tell you..." = "I tell you the truth"
["seriously" when Cade tells us something...usually very excitedly and passionately]

-What Jesus is revealing about himself separates Christianity from all other religions

-It is central to the Christian faith. It's the basis of the Great Confession Peter made that we all express when we come to a place where we want to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord: **I believe**

you are the Christ, the Son of God

-Jesus describes the relationship of sameness the Son shares with the Father. "synced perfect"

-We've seen this theme from the opening verses of John and it's echoed throughout all the NT

-Jesus is fully God. He is the same in character, power, and purpose.

-There is an apprenticeship relationship evident here Joseph teaching Jesus carpentry, ... "the son does only what he sees his father doing" "I seek to please only him" vs 30

DISCUSSION QUESTION: What is something you have learned from a parent, teacher, mentor that has served you well in life so far?

[senior in high school, typing, use it every day]

-Jesus models a beautiful picture of dependence on God and complete submission to God

-The love relationship between God the Father and God the Son is mutual and fruitful

-God has entrusted some significant work to Jesus

- Giving Life (vs 21, 26)

-In the OT, God was seen as the source of life and the one who sustains life (breath)

-John tells us that Jesus is also the source of life "In him was life" John 1:4

-In the same way he healed the paralyzed man & will raise Lazarus, he brings life.

-Life here, as in most of John, isn't referring to just physical life, but spiritual/eternal life

-**"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life" John 3:35**

-**"I am the Resurrection and the Life; Whoever believes in me will live". John 11:25**

-That's what makes Easter something we celebrate not just 1 day a year, but every day!

1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-22

-Because it is a fact that Jesus is fully God AND He resurrected from the dead, He is the source and sustainer, the giver of eternal life, and we can find life in Him.

- Judging (vs 22, 27)

- The Messiah was given the authority to judge (Isa 11:1-5). Jesus has been appointed judge of humankind because He is fully God, but also because He is fully human.

-The title "Son of God" speaks to his identity as fully God, and "Son of Man" speaks to his humanity. This is significant. John uses this title 80 times to stress Jesus' ability to relate to us AND our ability to relate to Him. Both give him authority to judge (Daniel 7)

-Peter speaks to this in **Acts 10:34-43**

-As the giver of life and judge, we come to realize that Jesus is a pretty big deal!

-So big, that again, who Jesus is separates Christianity from all other religions

-There are many other religions that will claim we have the same "God", and many acknowledge Jesus as a good man, even a holy man, a wise teacher, even a prophet.

-But that's not sufficient enough!

-"Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him." John 5:23

[30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World - cccgo.com/30daysprayer for a prayer guide]

-Last week was Holy Week for us Christians, celebrating the life, death, & resurrection of Jesus

-This week is in the middle of Passover, the holy season for Jews

-And this coming week starts the holy celebration for Muslims, Ramadan

-While Islam claims to share the same God, they don't recognize Jesus as fully God

-For the past several years, our church family has been committed to share the truth about Jesus to our Muslim neighbors here local, regionally, and through the world

-For many years, we have been purposefully and passionately praying for this

-We want to invite you to take the next 30 days to join us in this prayer. It would be a purposeful way to spend some of your time during this "stay at home" period

-Did you hear the promise of hope in vs 24?

John 5:24 Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

-This is a very clear line of declaration!

-Jesus said in Matthew 7, the person who hears and obeys his words is a wise builder who builds his house on a rock and it withstands the storms of life

-Jesus is described by Peter as a "cornerstone" that keeps the building square

-Jesus declares in John 14:6: I am the way, the truth, and the life.

-The one who gives life and judges is the same. He has the authority to judge and to acquit!

-And he speaks to not only how to escape death but also judgement

JOHN 5:28-30

-Jesus is not stating that people who do good are saved, but instead the opposite: people who are saved do good!

-When we find true life in Jesus and his identity, we are changed and join His mission
[binge watching The Chosen series]

The Chosen app and their site, Vidangel.com. #1 crowdfunded media project in history, raising over \$11 million from more than 16,000 investors who wanted to see season one made. 148 countries, 52+ languages, tells stories of radical transformation

-When we recognize who Jesus is and experience true life in Him it changes us!

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Who is someone you know personally who's life has been radically changed by coming to know Jesus?

-Listen to how John states this in his later epistles to the church

1 JOHN 3:1-11,14

-Our salvation is a free gift and our "good deeds" reflect we have been saved. We will be judged by the way we love and serve others.

-Jesus says in Matthew 25, when he comes to judge he will separate those who served others from those who didn't, like a shepherd separates sheep from goats.

-James 1:27, true religion God accepts=look after those in need, not be polluted by the world!

-How we live life indicates where we have found life.

-Jesus is the source of life. We find true life in Him. We fully live when we live like Him.

-Jesus than makes a pretty strong challenge to the religious leaders

JOHN 5:31-47

-Jesus points out that He is the source of life that all Scripture, and even Moses who the religious leaders held in highest regard, point to. Yet they rejected him as Messiah and Savior.

-They chose to reject Him and the life He offers. They are living for themselves and for their own glory. That leads to death. They stand accused by their lack of faith in Him

-McGee, "These men never let up until they folded their arms beneath His cross."

-Jesus' words stand as a strong warning for them and for all of us.

-When we acknowledge who Jesus is as the Son of God, we cross over from death to life, spiritually, enterally, & immediately. Jesus says multiple times, "a time is coming, and is here!"

-When begin to live differently, like Jesus lived, loving like he loved. His life comes to life in us

- Have you found life in Jesus? Are you letting His life live in you?
- Jesus is LIFE! If you are looking for true life anywhere else, you won't find it. There's a lot of ways to die, but only 1 way to live!
- Jesus gives life, now and eternally.
- And once we have embraced that reality, His life should become evident in ours, by the way we live and the way we love
- The Great Confession is the way to begin living with Jesus today
- And the Great Commission is the way to continue his mission in the world today, loving and serving others in His name, helping them see Jesus by being a living reflection of Him

PRAY