

the gospel of

JOHN

he is the one

This Winter, our hope is to see Jesus in chapters of 5-10 of John's Gospel. Here, Jesus makes several identity statements about himself through what he says or does. The most important one that shapes all the others is that he equates himself with God the Father. All the other statements flow from this reality. Jesus is God. As God, He is the One with the right to judge, the power to provide soul food, who gives eternal life, and who can save and keep until the end. He is the one with real authority, who can give the Spirit and grant mercy. He is the one with the truth, sent from the Father who can truly see and grant sight. And He is the one who is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. For everything we need, He is the One. For everything we want, He is the One. Jesus is the One sent from the Father to be for us all that we have ever hoped and longed for.

THE ONE WHO JUDGES

Read the text: John 5:21-47 (vs. 21-29 below)

For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, 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. 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.

“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. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do

not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Jesus is the just judge appointed to judge the world. He didn't appoint himself, the Father did. And, he isn't alone in his position without witnesses. Those witnesses, seen in vs. 30-47, both affirm his position and give testimony to his judgment. Each witness points to Jesus as both the judge and the one who can save from judgment. And each witness points out the guilt of those who refuse to come to Jesus, so that all are justly judged.

Jesus is the just judge of the world who took on our sin and satisfied God's just judgment so that we might no longer be condemned but receive eternal life. If you reject The Judge, you will be judged. If you receive The Judge, you will be acquitted and given eternal life.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. What evidence do we have that Jesus is God's appointed judge of the world? Is that good news to you? Why or why not?
2. How do we know if you are still under God's just judgment or if you have been acquitted by the judge? Are you confident of that?
3. Pastor Jeff mentioned that some of us don't hear Jesus, and therefore reject the judge, because we love our Bible more than Him. This is what Jesus condemned the religious

leaders for in 5:38-40. What would it look like to love your Bible more than Jesus? How are you in danger of this?

4. Pastor Jeff said that “whoever’s glory you seek is the judge you submit to.” If you seek the glory of your peers, they become your judge. Who do you think are the people you seek glory from the most? To whom do you look to know that you are “okay”? Be honest and specific about whose opinion matters most to you at times. Do you receive life from them? Or do you feel condemned?
5. How do you tangibly look to other judges to declare your life okay? Through social media? Through friendships? Through your work or performance? How do these leave you feeling at the end of the day?
6. Take some time to remember and rehearse how Jesus, the true judge, views you? How does Jesus think about you?