

(18) This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. 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.

(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. For the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will.

(22) “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.

(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. 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.

(28) “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.”

Think on these things:

- 1) Some non-believers state that Jesus never claimed to be God. Looking at v.18 above, and John 4:23-26, would you agree with the non-believer's statement? Why was it already so clear to the Jewish leaders that Jesus was not like other “prophets” who rose up in Israel from time to time? What did the leaders decide they must do?

Did Jesus claim to be God? **I would not agree with unbelievers. When the woman at the well said “Messiah” would tell us all things, Jesus told her that He was the Messiah. In v.18, the Jewish leaders objected to Jesus claiming God as His Father, understanding that by this He considered Himself equal to God (the Father). They knew exactly what Jesus meant by this.**

The leaders decided they must ... **kill Jesus (the beginning of their plotting His death).**

- 2) Who does Jesus claim He imitates (v.19)? Jesus also stated He would do even greater works. What is the reason for Him to perform greater works (miracles, v.20)?

Imitates who? **The Father (i.e., like Father, like Son!). Jesus declined to do anything outside of the Father's Will.**

Why greater works? **Jesus says greater works will be shown so that we may “marvel” at God!**

- 3) Thinking about Jesus as God, the Son, what kinds of things about Jesus cause you to marvel and think about His greatness as the Son of Man (His self-name), humanity's Savior?

Opinion and discussion question about the grandeur and greatness of God. Things like His willingness to subject Himself to human form, laying aside His heavenliness, suffering a horrible death to redeem mankind, defying natural laws with His miracles, etc....

4) Jesus now clarifies the major topic most everyone considers in this lifetime. Will people ever be judged for how they live in this world? Is there really a heaven and a hell, as taught in the Bible? Jesus previously covered how people will be saved (delivered) from judgment in John 3:16-17. Let's look closely at what He explains here:

Who will judge us (v.22, 27)? **Humanity's judgment has been entrusted to Jesus, God the Son**

When we reject Jesus, who else do we reject (v.23)? **God the Father**

What 2 things does Jesus say about "believers" (v.24)? **"Believers" receive eternal life, and they will NOT "come into judgment" (passing from death to life, when they become believers).**

What 2 resurrections are announced (v.29)? **Resurrection of Life, and Resurrection of Judgment**

5) Many people believe that gaining eternal life comes after we die and go to heaven. Is that what Jesus teaches here (v.24, 26)? How might Jesus' statement here impact how we choose to live today and into the future? Does it...?

Eternal life starts when? **Our point of "belief" brings us eternal life --- NOW!**

The impact on life today? **If eternal life becomes mine the moment I put my faith in Jesus, I become a citizen of heaven. I should begin living as God's child today.**

6) How does "belief" in Jesus differ from "belief" in George Washington or Abraham Lincoln? Consider these verses in your answer:

John 3:1-7 **Believers are "born again" by the Holy Spirit into a new, God-like life.**

Romans 6:6, 11-14 **The "old" me living in sin (disobedience to God) must be set aside, considered as dead. In a life of grace, I must now offer myself fully to God and His works, and so embrace a righteous (godly) life.**

Romans 12:1-2 **I must offer myself to God, sacrificially doing His holy work. Further, I must allow my worldly-thinking mind to be transformed and renewed by God the Holy Spirit, using God's Word and truth, so that I may discern God's perfect and acceptable will for my life.**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 **I can no longer live by worldly and sinful ways. With God's Holy Spirit within me, my body becomes God's Temple. He paid a steep price to redeem me.**

Ephesians 1:13-14 **When I came to believe the Gospel story of Jesus, God sealed me as His own with the Holy Spirit. His presence within me is God's guarantee that I am His (and no longer on my own).**

Bottom Line: Belief in Washington or Lincoln is factual. Belief in Jesus must be **transformative!** Life is not expected to go on as usual, but we are to be changed from the inside out.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: