JOHN 8:21-30

WHO WILL DIE IN THEIR SIN?

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. I HOPE YOU ALL WERE AS ENCOURAGED AS I WAS LAST SUNDAY WHEN OUR BROTHER TOLD US THAT WE WERE DUMB---THAT WE MAKE BAD DECISIONS---AND WE ARE ALONE, SEPARATED FROM GOD!
   1. WHILE WE WERE LAUGHING AT THOSE REMARKS…
   2. WE MAY HAVE MISSED HIS STATEMENT THAT FOLLOWED: **BUT JESUS LOVES YOU!—**(bottom line)
2. THERE ARE MANY DISASTERS THAT CONFRONT US TODAY (IE)
   1. FEAR OF THE ELECTION RESULTS---NO MORE DEMOCRACY---WWIII---ECONOMY GREATLY WEAKENED BY THE NATIONAL DEBT---A DICTATORSHIP…
   2. GLOBAL WARMING WITH EXTREME WEATHER DISASTERS CAUSING LOSS OF LIFE & PROPERTY
3. LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING---NONE OF THESE DISASTERS HOLD A CANDLE TO THE GREAT DISASTER WITH WHICH JESUS CONFRONTS THESE RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN THIS PASSAGE!
   1. HE MAKES THE STATEMENT TWICE (21, 24) “AND YOU WILL DIE IN YOUR SINS.”
   2. THIS WARNING FROM THE LORD JESUS IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR US TODAY---AS IT WAS FOR THOSE IN THE TEMPLE COURTS IN JERUSALEM IN THE 1ST CENTURY.
4. THIS EXPRESSION “DIE IN YOUR SINS” IS SIMILAR TO AN EXPRESSION FOUND IN THE GREEK OLD TESTAMENT IN (EZEK. 3:16-18, 20-21) WHERE GOD SPEAKS TO THE PROPHET ABOUT FAILING TO PERFORM HIS TASK AS WATCHMAN, (PROPHETS IN THE O. T. WERE OFTEN CALLED “WATCHMEN).”
   1. TO DIE WITH ONE’S SINS UNREPENTED & UNATONED WOULD BE THE ULIMATE DISASTER TO HAPPEN TO A PERSON…
   2. THE WARNING HERE IS QUITE STERN & TO THE POINT.
   3. NOTICE EZEKIEL WAS CALLED TO WARN BOTH THE WICKED (16-18) AND THE RIGHTEOUS (20-21):
   4. THE RIGHTEOUS MAN ALSO NEEDED TO BE WARNED TO PREVENT HIS TURNING FROM HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS & DOING EVIL…
   5. IF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON HAD LEFT THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, HE TOO WAS IN DANGER OF DEATH…
   6. THIS IS NOT REFERRING TO AN INDIVIDUAL LOSING HIS SALVATION…
   7. THE “RIGHTEOUS ONE” DESCRIBED HERE WAS OUTWARDLY CONFORMING TO GOD’S COMMANDMENTS, AND THE “DEATH” SPOKEN OF HERE IS PHYSICAL DEATH.
5. OUR PASSAGE TODAY CONTINUES FROM THE PREVIOUS VERSES---SPEAKING TO THE PHARISEES THAT BEGAN (8:13).
6. THERE ARE TWO BIRTHS: FROM ABOVE, BEING BORN AGAIN BY GOD’S SPIRIT---AND FROM THIS WORLD, BEING BORN OF THE FLESH…
   1. AND THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO DIE: THE SINNER DIES IN HIS SINS---BUT THE BELIEVER DIES IN THE LORD…
   2. (REV. 14:13) “THEN I HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAY, WRITE THIS: BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHO DIE IN THE LORD FROM NOW ON. YES SAYS THE SPIRIT, THEY WILL REST FROM THEIR LABOR, FOR THEIR DEEDS WILL FOLLOW THEM.”
   3. FAITH IN JESUS MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!
7. JESUS HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS MESSAGE IS NOT OF HUMAN ORIGIN BUT RATHER IT IS DIVINE…
   1. JESUS TOLD THE JEWS THAT HE CAME FROM HEAVEN…
   2. (26) THE FATHER SENT HIM…
   3. (28) THE FATHER TAUGHT HIM…
   4. (29) THE FATHER REMAINED WITH HIM.
8. JESUS POINTS OUT TO THEM IN (28) THAT THEIR MOMENT OF UNDERSTANDING WILL COME TOO LATE “WHEN YOU HAVE LIFTED UP THE SON OF MAN, (SPEAKING OF HIS CRUCIFIXION), THEN YOU WILL KNOW WHO I AM.”
9. “WHERE I GO, YOU CANNOT COME.”
   1. WHAT HE IS SAYING IS THAT ONCE HE GOES AWAY IT WILL BE TOO LATE…
   2. THEY WILL LOOK FOR HIM IN THE SENSE THAT THEY WILL WANT MESSIAH TO COME TO SAVE THEM IN THEIR HOUR OF DISTRESS & NEED…
   3. THIS COULD REFER PROPHETICALLY TO AD. 70 WHEN THE ROMANS DESTROYED THE CITY OF JERUSALEM…
   4. OR IT COULD MEAN JUST THAT AFTER THEY HAVE PUT HIM TO DEATH SOME OF THEM WILL REALIZE HE WAS THE MESIAH…
   5. AND IT COLLD REFER TO THE HORRIFYING DISCOVERY THAT AFTER DEATH…THEY WILL REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE DIED IN THEIR SIN AND IT’S TOO LATE TO ACCEPT THE OFFER OF SALVATION…
   6. THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THAT HE WAS WHO HE CLAIMED TO BE: THE INCARNATE SON OF GOD---THE MESSIAH---THE EXPECTED ONE---LORD OF GLORY---THE ONLY SAVIOR!
   7. THEY CANNOT COME TO WHERE HE IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN QUALIFIED BY THE NEW BIRTH.
10. AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE CALLED TO EXAMINE “THE WHOLE COUNCIL OF GOD…”
    1. THAT THERE IS NO DISCOVERY OF CONVERSION & JOY IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST…
    2. WITHOUT FIRST HAVING THE AWARENESS OF CONVICTION & THE FACT OF OUR SINFULNESS BEFORE A HOLY GOD…
    3. THIS VERY THING IS POINTED OUT BY THE WRITER OF HEBREWS “BUT HE HAS APPEARED ONCE FOR ALL AT THE CULMINATION OF THE AGES TO DO AWAY WITH SIN BY THE SACRIFICE OF HIMSELF. JUST AS PEOPLE ARE DESTINED TO DIE ONCE, AND AFTER THAT TO FACE JUDGEMENT.”
    4. THIS SHOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN OUR LIVES---IT HAS RELEVANCE TO OUR LOVED ONES---TO OUR CHILDREN AS WE PRAY FOR THEM---TO OUR NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS
    5. IT IS A FACT THIS MORNING THAT MEN & WOMEN DO & WILL DIE IN THEIR SINS.
    6. THESE 10 VERSES ALLOW US TO ANSWER A VITAL QUESTION: WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WILL DIE IN THEIR SIN?

**SELF-RELIANT MOCKERS:** (22)

1. THESE PHARISEES IGNORE THE FIRST PART OF JESUS’ STATEMENT “YOU WILL DIE IN YOUR SINS”---CHOOSING INSTEAD TO FOCUS ON THE NOTION THAT JESUS WAS GOING SOME WHERE THEY CANNOT GO…
   1. SARCASTICALLY THEY ASK “WILL HE KILL HIMSELF?”
   2. HA HA---HE’S NOT GOING TO KILL HIMSELF IS HE?
2. THE JEWISH LEADERSHIP TAUGHT THAT ANYONE WHO COMMITED SUICIDE WENT TO THE LOWEST, DARKEST PART OF HADES…
3. SINCE THESE PHARISEES WERE SO FULL OF THEMSELVES & WERE CERTAIN THEY WERE NOT GOING THERE, THEY WERE SAYING THIS EXPLAINED THE OUTLANDISH STATEMENTS JESUS WAS MAKING.
4. THESE SAME JEWS MOCKED JESUS BACK IN (7:34-35)…
   1. THEY THOUGHT WHAT JESUS SAID WAS A JOKE---WHEN IN REALITY THEY WERE RIGHT…
   2. JESUS WAS BY HIS SPIRIT GOING TO DO THAT VERY THING (IE) HE WAS GOING TO PREACH & HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THE GENTILES & TO THE OUTER MOST PARTS OF THE EARTH
5. THERE IS ALSO AN IRONY IN (22) AS WELL---ALTHOUGH JESUS WOULD NOT COMMIT SUICIDE, HE WOULD GIVE HIS LIFE AT CALVARY AS A RANSOM FOR MANY!
6. THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN TODAY---MAN BY NATURE IS SELF-RELIANT & MOCK GOD…
   1. DEEP WITHIN US THERE IS THIS GREAT OPINION OF OURSELVES (IE)…
   2. AT LEAST WE AREN’T AS BAD AS THOSE FOLKS!
   3. EVERYTIME WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH THE EVIDENCE OF BEING BAD, WE CHOOSE TO IGNOR OR NOT DWELL ON ITS IMPORATNCE.
7. BUT WHEN THE GOSPEL CUTS DEEP WITHIN THE HUMAN HEART & REVEALS TO ME WHAT I AM---(RUBISH) WHAT A DIFFERENCE THAT MAKES…
   1. REMEMBER PETER’S SERMON AT PENTECOST?
   2. (ACTS 2:36-37)
8. THE MOCKING CONTINUES TODAY (IE)
   1. TELLING THE SHERRILLS WE HAD BEEN BORN AGAIN!
   2. SNIDE REMARKS: “WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE BOYS WE’RE PLAYING GOLF WITH A PREACHER---HE’S ONE OF THOSE BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIANS---HE’S BETTER THAN WE ARE HE’S GOING TO CHURCH WITH THE OLD WOMAN!”
   3. THERE WILL BE NO LAUGHING WHEN DEATH CATCHES YOU UP & YOU REALIZE THE WORDS OF JESUS ARE TRUE. (2 PET. 3:3-7)

**SELF-RELIANT MOCKERS---THOSE WHO LOVE THE WORLD:** (23)

1. JESUS DRAWS A CONTRAST BETWEEN HIMSELF & HIS AUDIENCE---THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DIVINITY & HUMANITY!
   1. JESUS IS SINLESS---HIS LISTENERS ARE SINFUL…
   2. JESUS DOES ONLY WHAT PLEASES THE FATHER---WE DO WHAT PLEASES OURSELVES.
2. WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM FACING THE WORLD TODAY---CANCER, NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST---NATURAL DISASTERS?
   1. JESUS ANSWERS THIS QUESTION RIGHT HERE:
   2. MAN IS EARTHBOUND---FROM THE WORLD---DESCENDENTS OF ADAM---THE FALL OF MAN…
   3. LIVING IN A WORLD NOT THE WAY GOD HAS MADE IT BUT THE WAY MAN HAS SPOILED IT…(EPH. 2:1-5).
3. THERE ARE MANY OF THESE FOLKS TODAY---RESPECTABLE, FRIENDLY, RELIGIOUS, AND DEAD!
   1. EARTHBOUND, NEVER LIVING WITH ETERNAL VALUES---NEVER CARING ABOUT SPIRITUAL REALITY, LIVING LIFE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE MATERIAL, PHYSICAL, TEMPORAL.
   2. (JAMES 4:4) “YOU ADULTEROUS PEOPLE, DON’T YOU KNOW THAT FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD MEANS ENMITY AGAINST GOD? THEREFORE, ANYONE WHO CHOOSES TO BE A FRIEND OF THE WORLD BECOMES AN ENEMY OF GOD.”
4. WHO WILL DIE IN THEIR SINS? SELF-RELIANT MOCKERS---THOSE WHO LOVE THE WORLD.

**THE UNBELIEVERS:**

1. WHILE CONSIDERING THESE VERSES, THEY SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD IN LIGHT OF (8:58) “VERY TRULY I TELL YOU, JESUS ANSWERED, BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS BORN, I AM!”
2. THERE ARE 2 UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE PROCLAMATION EXPRESSED BY JESUS:
   1. HE IS SAYING I AM THE SON OF GOD---THE ONE I CLAIM TO BE---THE ONE WHO IS EXPECTED (ISA. 25:9) “IN THAT DAY THEY WILL SAY, SURELY THIS IS OUR GOD; WE TRUSTED IN HIM, AND HE SAVED US. THIS IS THE LORD, WE TRUSTED IN HIM; LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN HIS SALVATION.”
   2. OR HE IS MORE GENERALLY MAKING REFERENCE TO (EXO. 3:14) WHERE GOD SAYS TO MOSES, “I AM WHO I AM. THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE TO SAY TO THE ISRAELITES: I AM HAS SENT ME TO YOU.”---JESUS IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS GOD!
3. JESUS WAS CLAIMING TO BE GOD---YOU CAN’T

SEPARATE THE FATHER & MYSELF…

* 1. I AM THE ALPHA AND OMEGA---THE BEGINNING AND THE END---THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD---THE BREAD OF LIFE---LIVING WATER---GOOD SHEPHERD---THE DOOR---BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR---INCARNATE LOGOS---THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME---OUR PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING!
  2. JESUS IS SAYING IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE SAVING FAITH WITHOUT HAVING SUCH AN ESTIMATE OF JESUS CHRIST!
  3. UNLESS WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS ALL HE CLAIMS TO BE, WE WILL NEVER TRUST HIM WITH THAT FAITH WHICH IS SAVING FAITH!
  4. (24) “IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE THAT I AM HE, YOU WILL INDEED DIE IN YOUR SINS.”

**CLOSING:**

1. HERE’S THE GOOD NEWS---NO ONE NEED DIE IN THEIR SIN.
2. THIS MESSAGE ENDS ON AN ENCOURAGING NOTE---JUST LIKE LAST WEEK…
   1. (29) “THE ONE WHO SENT ME IS WITH ME; HE HAS NOT LEFT ME ALONE.”
   2. (JOHN 14:3) “AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU, I WILL COME BACK AND TAKE YOU TO BE WITH ME THAT YOU ALSO MAY BE WHERE I AM.”

DOES JESUS CARE WHEN MY HEART IS PAINED TOO DEEPLY FOR MIRTH AND SONG; AS THE BURDENS PRESS, AND THE CARES DISTRESS, AND THE WAY GROWS WEARY AND LONG?

DOES JESUS CARE WHEN I’VE TRIED AND FAILED TO RESIST SOME TEMPTATION STRONG; WHEN FOR MY DEEP GRIEF I FIND NO RELIEF, THO MY TEARS FLOW ALL THE NIGHT LONG?

O YES, HE CARES---I KNOW HE CARES! HIS HEART IS TOUCHED WITH MY GRIEF; WHEN THE DAYS ARE WEARY, THE LONG NIGHT’S DREARY, I KNOW MY SAVIOR CARES.

LET ME LEAVE YOU WITH A VERSE FROM THE GREAT BOOK OF WISDOM: (PROV. 18:24)

“ONE WHO HAS UNRELIABLE FRIENDS SOON COMES TO RUIN, BUT THERE IS A FRIEND THAT COMES CLOSER THAN A BROTHER.”