

## **John 5:19-40**

### The judgment of the Son

*Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

*"Very truly, I tell you, the 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 just 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 be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.*

*"I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me.*

*"If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true. You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.*

*"You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life.*

As I continue to become more familiar with the Bible, I appreciate the many different emotions the word of God can stir in me—love and fear, joy, gratitude, anger, and often confusion... When I read these verses, I felt empowered. Jesus says the greatest testimonies of faith and love for God are the works done through God and to serve God's purposes. Admittedly, when I imagine someone trying to decipher God's will, I think *yeah right, like any of us ever fully understands God's will*. Often though, it's simpler than that. If I'm stressed out about a test or project—and everything else going on at the same time—it's when I stop to do things to serve others, like write a birthday card for my roommate or run an errand for a friend, that I rejoice in being a follower of Christ and find strength to face the challenges in life. I feel empowered by these moments because I believe that when I forget about my own purposes is when I am open to acting on God's purposes.

-Briana

\*Please share your thoughts or reflections! Sharing as a community is a way to discern God's will as well!