

Abide in Me

Mentored by the Master
Discipleship in Real Time



Volume 10 - Number 23

The Week of May 4, 2025

Come and Follow
Jesus on Jesus
John 5:19-47

In this passage, Jesus delivers a breathtaking revelation of His identity. Confronted by religious leaders after healing a man on the Sabbath, He doesn't retreat—He presses in. He boldly declares that He shares in the Father's work, authority, and very life. He claims the power to raise the dead, grant eternal life, and execute judgment. These claims are staggering—and He doesn't expect us to believe them blindly. Instead, He points to compelling witnesses: John the Baptist, His miraculous works, the Father's own testimony, and the Scriptures themselves.

Despite this overwhelming evidence, many still refuse to believe. Why? Jesus exposes the deeper issue. It's not the absence of proof, but the problem of misplaced love. We have a craving for human approval over the approval that comes from God.

This passage is more than a theological monologue. It's a courtroom scene. Our hearts are on trial. Jesus issues both a warning and an invitation: resist Him and remain in judgment or come to Him and receive life. He offers eternal life now and a future hope that no grave can overcome.

OBSERVATION *(What does the passage say and how does it say it?)*

Before your group meets, read the passage and perform the following prompts:

- Double underline the "truly, truly" statements (v.19, v.24, v.25).
- Circle phrases like "has eternal life," "passed from death to life," "hears my word," "refuse to come."
- Place brackets around the four witnesses Jesus calls: John the Baptist, His works (miracles), the Father, and the Scriptures.

¹⁹ 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. ²¹ For as 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, ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ 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 ²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

³⁰“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³¹If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. ³²There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. ³³You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. ³⁵He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. ³⁶But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, ³⁸and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. ³⁹You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

⁴¹I do not receive glory from people. ⁴²But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. ⁴³I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”

INTERPRETATION *(What does the passage mean?)*

1. What does Jesus mean when He says the Son "can do nothing of His own accord" (v.19)?
2. What are the "greater works" Jesus promises in verse 20?
3. Why has the Father entrusted all judgment to the Son (v.22)?
4. What connection does Jesus make between honoring the Son and honoring the Father (v.23)?

5. According to verse 24, what happens the moment someone hears and believes Jesus' word?
6. How do the four witnesses (John, miracles, Father, Scriptures) validate Jesus' identity?
7. Why does seeking the approval of others block someone from believing in Christ (v.44)?

APPLICATION *(How does the passage apply to our lives?)*

1. How does knowing Jesus acts perfectly in step with the Father deepen our confidence in Him?
2. Where have you seen Jesus' life-giving power at work in you or others?
3. What does it look like to practically "hear" and "believe" Jesus' word today?
4. How can we read Scripture better, not simply to accumulate knowledge, but to meet Christ?
5. What would it mean this week to seek the glory that comes from God rather than chasing human approval?

Discipleship Lessons:

- A true disciple does not act independently but seeks moment-by-moment alignment with God's heart.
- A disciple is someone who hears Jesus' word, believes it fully, and passes it on.
- A disciple must decide whose approval they live for: the fleeting praise of people, or the lasting approval of God?

Sermon Notes: *Jesus on Jesus*

John 5:19-47

Lined area for sermon notes.