

## Jesus the Judge of all

### 1. Intro / Context

- This week a Perth man, called Sam Smith suffered the misfortune of having his Melbourne Cup winnings stolen from him as a result of him posting a photo of his winning ticket on Facebook
- He couldn't believe it when Prince of Penzance came in and he had won \$825
- "I decided to have \$10 each way and I posted just a photo of the ticket on Facebook. I didn't have it up for long before one of my friends messaged me and said you need to take that down straight away because someone will steal your money.
- "By the time I went to claim the ticket it was gone.
- "We were already celebrating and had bought four bottles of champagne.
- Sam said he is gutted one of his friends could have cashed in his winnings because his Facebook settings were set to private.
- "It's really disappointing to think that one of our friends could've have [cheated] us out of our money," he said.
  - Where's the justice?
- Last week an airplane travelling from Egypt to St Petersburg, Russia crashed mysteriously over northern Sinai killing all 224 passengers & crew on board
  - Intelligence to date is suggesting it came down due to a bomb planted on the plane, most probably by Islamic State
  - Where's the justice?
- Early last Sunday morning four men sexually assaulted a 14yo girl in a park in Geelong
  - The four men are still at large
  - Where's the justice?
- We hear stories like these
  - We experience injustices in our own life or in the life of others we know and we get riled up about it
  - We get feel a righteous anger
  - We want justice to be done
- We want justice in the world
  - We want someone to square up all the accounts
  - We want wrongs to be put right

- But then we run into problem
  - We want justice ... but we want it for others and not necessarily ourselves
  
- We think members of Islamic State need a judge
  - But that means if there's one who will judge them justly ... then we know instinctively that we too will also meet the judge
  - And what if he doesn't judge by numbers
  - We probably think that we are better than members of Islamic State
  - But if he's a righteous judge he can't grade by numbers
  - He can't just take the top 10% or 20% or 30%
  - That's not fair
    - Because where do you draw the line??
  
- You could use something that doesn't grade by numbers and use a standard like 'love your neighbour as yourself' ...
  - But then again ... deep down we know we haven't done very well at that either
  
- So we have this dilemma
- We want the rule of righteousness to judge others ... but we don't want a righteous ruler to judge us because we too know we'll be condemned
  
- In this passage we see a ruler
  - who will not only judge justly > who will bring a rule of righteousness
  - but a ruler who can also provide a means where we not condemned

## 2. The Judge who submits

- Recall last week's passage Jesus got the Jews noses out of joint when he healed a lame man on the Sabbath
  - The Jews had all these rules and regulations about what you could and couldn't do on the Sabbath (day of rest) and when Jesus the told the man to pick up his mat and go ... that was against the Sabbath traditions
  - **John 5:18** *For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*
  
- Our passage picks up on that conversation

- Jesus goes on to say that the things he has been doing – the miracles, his teaching, his ministry ... are not him
  - acting out of selfish ambition
  - seeking his own glory
  - trying to make a name for himself
  - acting with his own power and authority
- Rather ... all he does and all he is doing only what the Father does and shows him
  - **John 5:19-20** *"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does"*
- What we see is this amazing humility of Jesus the son, submitting to the will and work of the Father
  - For even though Jesus is God > even though he is fully divine ... he was willing to come down from heaven and submit himself to the Father
    - Even though he is great ... he humbled himself
    - Even though he is powerful ... he came to serve
    - Even though he deserves honour ... he came to seek the honour of his Father
- Because of his perfect obedience and submission to the Father, the Father gives even greater authority to Jesus
  - The work the Father give Jesus to do is much more than healing people and turning water into wine and teaching with authority
- For we read in **John 5:20-22**
  - *"Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. <sup>21</sup> For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the **Son gives life** to whom he is pleased to give it. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted **all judgment to the Son,**"*
- The Father gives Jesus the Son, authority to give life and to judge
- For the Jews listening to Jesus this would have been staggering
  - For they would have known from the OT that God alone was the giver of life<sup>1</sup>
  - Likewise the OT makes clear that God alone is the one true judge<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> **Deuteronomy 32:39** <sup>39</sup> "See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand.; **1 Samuel 2:6** <sup>6</sup> "The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.; **2 Kings 5:7** <sup>7</sup> As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life?"

- Giving life and judging the world are the prerogatives of God alone
- But here Jesus is saying that the Father has given that authority to him as the Son to judge and to give life

- **Application**

- This is important for us to recognise especially as we unpack what it means for Jesus to be the judge
  - We need to understand this is a delegated responsibility Jesus has been given
  - He's not acting on his own accord
  - He's not acting on his own authority
  - He's not some cowboy deity wielding divine power randomly at will
- No!
  - This is the Son, exercising authority of God the Father ...
  - In full submission to the Father's will

### 3. The Judge who gives life

- So Jesus is the judge > but he is the judge who submits to the Father
- What's means for Jesus to be the judge?
- Bible is very clear – throughout the OT and NT ... that there will come a day when just judgment will come
- And this passage makes it clear that not only will that just judgment come one day ... but also that Jesus is the one appointed to execute that judgment
  - **John 5:27** <sup>27</sup> *And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.*
  - **John 5:28-30** *for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out-- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. <sup>30</sup> By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just*
- This passage teaches us there will be future day of judgment
  - A time is coming when the curtain will come down on this world and God will put an end to all injustice, brokenness, and wrongdoing

---

<sup>2</sup> **Genesis 18:25** Far be it from you to do such a thing-- to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"; **Judges 11:27** Let the LORD, the Judge

- If heaven is going to be good and perfect, a place without death, mourning, crying or pain ... justice must come and evil must be abolished
- God will ensure that eternal life will not be a reality where the sufferings and injustices of this world go unchecked and unresolved
- A day of judgment will come
  
- Secondly, v29-30 tells us judgment will be just
  - Every mouth will be stopped > no one will have any excuses > truth of judgment will be evident to everyone
  - How? Because it will be based on deeds (v29)
    - That is ... there will be evidence to support the judgment
    - Like a court room lawyer who tables all the evidence against the accused in court
      - **Revelation 20:12** *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.*
  
  - What? Don't you always teach that we're not saved by deeds?
  - Yes! Absolutely!
    - We're not saved on our deeds
    - We're saved by believing in Christ who died to atone for our sin
    - It's there in v24 ... it's those who believe who have eternal life
  
  - What this is saying is judgment (not salvation) is based on deeds
    - Your deeds / your actions / your words / your thoughts are an index to your heart
    - They reveal whether or not you believe in Jesus Christ
  
- **Illustration**
  - Fruit on a tree doesn't make it alive ... what it does is **show** the tree is alive
  - Our deeds don't save us ... what they do is show whether we believe in Jesus or not
  
- Ppl who are saved on judgment day are not those who merely say they believe in Jesus Christ ... but those
  - who actually believe
  - who actually live it

- The genuineness of your faith will be evident from your deeds
  
- **Application**
- If you actually believe in the Lord Jesus Christ
  - That he willingly went to the cross to die the death you deserved to die
    - It changes your heart and transforms your life
    - Your belief begins to affect your life
    - Your belief transforms your life
  - The evidence of your belief / that transformation is revealed in the way you live your life > it's revealed in your deeds
  
- Thirdly, these verses teach us that what happens on judgment day is merely a confirmation of what people chose today
- Lots of people get upset at the thought of Jesus Christ condemning people on judgment day
  - But what this passage shows is that they are getting what they ask for
  - Those who believe Jesus as the Son who gives life ... receive life
  - Those who reject Jesus remain where they are ... dead
    - They have chosen to reject the one who gives life
    - And so they get what they want
  - The Bible says that the ultimate punishment, which is the fairest punishment, is that God gives people what they want
  - You want nothing to do with Jesus?
  - In the end Jesus will say "Ok" and he will give you what you want
  
- **Illustration**
- Like a kid who wants to run off some place > you know if they run off they're going to slip and fall down and hurt themselves
- So you hold on to them and they're constantly shouting
  - "Let go! Let go!"
- And you don't let go > because if you gave them what they want they would hurt themselves
- The Bible says, if you continue to say "let go, let go"
  - Eventually God will say
    - "You want me to let go ... okay, I'll let you go"
  
- Unless there comes a point in your life where you get down on your knees and say "your will be done"
  - God will say "Okay, your will be done"
- Don't say "Let me go" because eventually he will let you go

- **The judge who gives life**
- Not only is Jesus is the just judge, he is also the giver of life
  - The reason Jesus can assure you life on that judgment day in the future
  - Is because Jesus gave up his life on that judgment day in the past
- v24 says
  - *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*
- v24 Jesus **sent** so we would not have any condemnation
  - Jesus is able to spare you the judgment because Jesus came to take your judgment
  - Jesus is able to give you life because he came and gave up his life
- The Bible tells us Jesus Christ was crucified
  - We know from history crucifixion was the worst of all executions
    - It was the most painful and was reserved for the worst of criminals
  - And yet God sent Jesus Christ into the world so that as he crossed over to death ... you and I might cross over to life
- You see he is not only the righteous judge ... he is also the giver of life
  - And he's worthy of judgment because he came to take judgment
  - And he's worth of giving life because he came to give up his life
- So we have this dilemma
  - We want Jesus to judge and bring justice to our world
  - We want someone who will judge members of Islamic State
  - But we know instinctively that not only will Jesus judge Islamic State, but we know he is going to judge us for not loving our neighbour as ourselves etc
- What do we do??
  - What do we do to avoid the judgment we deserve and receive the life Jesus offers?
- **Illustration – Difficult Conversations**
- Reading a book called Difficult Conversations
  - Very insightful and helpful in dealing with difficult conversations
  - Two key things I've taken out of it so far
    - Need to show understanding to the other person

- I.E. understand where they are coming from
- Not to assume motive > but to understand why they did or said what they did
  - Recognise your own contribution to the conflict
    - Realise there are things you have said or done, which have contributed to the situation
- Simple but brilliant
  - Because when you realise
    - You're not perfect
    - You're broken, sinful, do and say the wrong thing as well
    - It helps you to realise you deserve to be rebuked
    - It stops you pointing the finger and doing all the blaming
    - It softens you towards the other person you are dealing with
- Take that principle and apply it on a cosmic scale with God
  - The minute you and I realise that we're broken, sinful and do and say the wrong thing ...
  - The minute you realise you're liable for judgment and unite to Jesus Christ by faith ...
- Is the minute you are saved from judgment and given the life Jesus gives
- If you realise you are liable for judgment
  - Realise you have no grounds for finger pointing and blaming
  - And you say to God
    - "you are just to judge me" and unite with Jesus Christ by faith ...
    - you are spared from that judgment and receive the life he offers
- You can face that judgment day in the future, because Jesus Christ faced judgment already in the past
- **Application**
- Knowing there is a judge who gives life is a wonderful thing
- It makes a huge impact on our lives
- Firstly it free us from bitterness
- If you know Jesus Christ at the judge who gives life it frees you from bitterness
  - Many of us have bitterness inside us from something or someone in the past
  - It's causes us to holding on to grudges
- You know what bitterness and grudges do?



- Cause you to want retribution > to want to bring that person down > to make them pay for what they did or said to you
- It makes you bitter and twisted
- Live life with this residual anger or resentment that remains unresolved
- If you keep in your heart the desire to bring others down who have hurt you
  - You know what you're doing?
  - You're taking the job away from God ... and at the end of the day ... it's a job you cannot bear
    - It's like wearing armor that is so heavy that when you fall over you cannot get up again
  - It's taking on a role that your heart and soul will burn out under it
- "It is mine to avenge" says the Lord<sup>3</sup> > he is the one who will judge justly
- When you know Jesus Christ as the judge who gives life it will free you free you from bitterness
- The second thing knowing Jesus as the judge who gives life is ... it will free you from judging yourself
  - One of the things Colleen Hirst said at our Internet Addiction seminar on Wednesday night is that social media exacerbating self-esteem issues amongst our teens > frankly us adults too
  - What happens on FB and Instagram etc is you post a message or a photo ... and how do people interact with that?
  - They can 'Like' it
  - She was saying this creates all sorts of issues for our self-esteem as we look to see how many 'likes' my post got
    - "Only 55 people 'liked' my photo
    - "Why didn't she like it? I thought she was my friend?"
    - "Does that mean people don't like me?"
  - The other issue with social media is we post all
    - our status updates and
    - photos of our holidays, dog, coffee,
    - check ins from the airport or the gym or the restaurant
  - And it's leading to this thing called Facebook Depression

---

<sup>3</sup> Deuteronomy 32:35

- Because as we see all these glorified posts, photos and check ins from our friends.... we compare all that to our mundane life of work, washing, cleaning up after kids and think ... "gee my life's boring"
- We're constantly evaluating ourselves and judging ourselves and thinking we're not good enough
- We want to prove ourselves worthy but feel we're not
- A couple of friends of mine have daughters who have eating disorders
  - They're judging themselves as too fat
  - They're worthiness / their value is perceived in their physique
  - So they're obsessed with losing weight and being skinny
  - Sad thing is this desire to be skinny is controlling them
  - They're enslaved to this thing that they use to evaluate themselves
- We do the same thing in all manner of ways
  - Whatever you use / do to try and evaluate your life and give you your sense worth ... will become your judge
  - It will drive you > it will control you > have mastery over you
    - Work
    - Parenting
  - What we end up doing is looking in the mirror and thinking I'm not
    - good enough
    - skinny enough
    - smart enough
    - beautiful enough
    - rich enough
  - What you're doing is judging yourself
- If you want to be your own king you will end up being your own judge
  - You will judge yourself into the ground and you will never be satisfied
- Jesus says ...
  - I am the judge ... and my judgment is the only one that matters
  - Not what other people think of you
  - Not even what you think of yourself
  - It's my judgment that matters
  - "You're free!"
  - "I accept you and I proved that by going to the cross for you!"

- "I'm the Judge"
  - "And I'm the only one qualified for this job"
  - "Make me your king and you will no longer be a slave"
  - Make yourself your king and you will end up making yourself a slave being your own judge
- When you unite yourself to Jesus Christ as the judge who gives life
  - End of bitterness > you stop judging others > you can be forgiving
  - End of despair > you stop judging yourself > you can be confident and content and assured

#### **4. Conclusion**

- We want justice in the world
- We know the world needs a just judge who will finally deal with evil in this world
  - The Bible promises that such a judge exists and a day of judgment will come
- The only problem is, we too will fall under the judgment of the judge
  - For we know we too have failed to love God and love our neighbour
- But in Christ we have a judge who is completely just
  - For he humbles himself and submits to the Father
- But in Christ we also have a judge who gives life
  - He gives life to all who honour him
  - The way we honour him is to hear his words and believe in the one who him
- Honour Christ > honour the judge
  - Hear his words, take them to heart and believe
  - And when you face that day of judgment in the future ... you can know for certain that you can stand with complete assurance
  - Because Jesus Christ faced that day of judgment in the past
- As you unite yourself to Christ ... you know you have life
  - For he is able to give you life ... because he came to give up his life
- As you honour the judge with your life
  - It frees you to be content and assured as you stop judging yourself
  - It frees you from bitterness as you stop judging others

- For Jesus says
  - *“whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*