



SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Death to Life

John 5:18-29 | Sep 20, 2026



John 5:18-29 - 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.

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.

OBSERVATION | *What does the text say?*

1. In John 5:18, why were the Jewish religious leaders seeking to kill Jesus after He healed the paralyzed man on the Sabbath?

What specific claims did He make that escalated their anger?

2. In John 5:19–20, according to Jesus, how closely aligned are the actions of the Son with the actions of the Father?

3. In John 5:25 & 28, what are the two types of "voices" and resurrections that Jesus describes in these verses?

Who is included in the final resurrection mentioned in verse 28?

INTERPRETATION | *What does the text mean?*

1. In John 5:26, how does Jesus' claim that "the Son gives life to whom he will" distinguish Him from other historical teachers, prophets, or religious figures?

What does it mean for Jesus to "have life in himself?"

2. Why is it impossible, according to John 5:22-23, to truly honor or worship God the Father while rejecting the absolute lordship and identity of Jesus Christ?

3. The Sunday message notes that physical death is merely a symptom, while spiritual death is our deepest tragedy. How does John 5:24 connect hearing Jesus' Word and believing to a spiritual "passing from death to life?"

APPLICATION | *How should this change us?*

1. When facing existential fears like mortality, uncertainty, or grief, where do you find yourself instinctively looking for comfort (e.g., philosophy, control, busyness, religion)

How does knowing that Jesus possesses life change how you face those fears?

2. In what practical areas of your daily life is it tempting to compartmentalize—treating Jesus as a helpful teacher or savior, but hesitating to fully submit to Him as your absolute Master and Judge?

3. John 5:25 speaks of spiritually dead hearts hearing His voice and living now. How can you cultivate a daily posture of actively “hearing?” and responding to Christ’s voice in your routine?

4. If every person you interact with this week is walking toward an inevitable eternity, how should that reality reshape your conversations, priorities, and urgency in sharing the gospel?

PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

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