

JESUS^{3D}

The Judge

Intro:

We're looking at the life of Jesus.

Jesus is:

We've seen Jesus in this series as

- **the teacher**, showing us the way God's kingdom operates, and our role in it.
- **the healer**, demonstrating and bringing the kingdom to the broken

One of the big themes that we've been seeing throughout is that Jesus came to set us free from the slavery to sin.

Sin is Slavery

One of the big ideas we keep coming back to in this series, is that Sin is not bad behavior. Sin is slavery. Said another way, Sin is idolatry.

That means that because we worship creation, rather than the creator, we are slaves to it. Practically this looks like...

The ultimate expression of sin.

Today, I would argue, that we come to a story that is the culmination of humanity's slavery to sin. This is one of the darkest moments in human history.

Mark 14:53-65

53 And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. **54** And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. **55** Now the chief priests and the whole council[f] were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. **56** For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. **57** And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, **58** "We

heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” **59** Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. **60** And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” **61** But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” **62** And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” **63** And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? **64** You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. **65** And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” And the guards received him with blows.

What lead to this?

Exile and exodus. When humanity was exiled from Eden, God began the work of reconciling us.

The promise to Abraham

The promise to David

The promise to Israel, God’s chosen people.

The people of Israel were God’s chosen ones through whom to bring redemption to the world. **And what is happening now?**

Slavery to sin.

Caiaphas, the High priest of God’s people, the best of the best. (**Think of his calling! His intended vocation!**) The one who was called to be God’s herald to the nations, is so consumed by petty self importance and pride, that he is willing to break the law, lie, and murder the Creator God himself.

This is the darkest moment in human history.

Jesus’ Response

How does Jesus respond? He’s silent to all the questions. (he could have defended himself.) Until one question, “Are you the messiah?”

Jesus says, “Yes. But there’s more. I’m the Son of Man, and you will see me at the right hand of God himself, returning on the clouds with glory.”

You see, the Messiah was not necessarily a divine figure. There were plenty of would-be messiahs before Jesus. The Son of Man was different.

Daniel 7

Jesus here is quoting a scripture that any pharisee would know well.

9 “As I looked,

thrones were placed,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat;
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames;
its wheels were burning fire.

10 A stream of fire issued
and came out from before him;
a thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;
the court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

...

13 “I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.

14 And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.

Jesus tells the Caiaphas, “You don’t know who you’re messing with.”
“You think you’re the judge here? I’m *the* judge.”

He is the Judge, but he was judged.

But what Jesus does next, is not what hollywood has taught us. He doesn't clean house and show them who's boss. **He submits** to this false court. To this false judge.

Jesus goes on to take the full weight of sin. Becoming a curse for us, as Paul said. Experiencing the ultimate results of sin. Jesus, the only one who should Judge, accepts our judgement.

I would like to briefly give you four ways this will change you if you really pull it into your life.

1. You can't judge others.

This means you will not sit in judgment on other groups of people. Jesus' greatness is not just that he has infinite power, but that he gave up his power and sacrificed and died to forgive his enemies.

If you are a Christian and you look at people who don't believe the way you do and feel superior to them, then you're not listening.

Jesus is the judge, not us.

To often christians miss this, and go around holding signs of judgement as if that we our job. If you find yourself looking down at people, your in Jesus' seat.

He's the judge, and look how he did it. He taught, he healed, he suffered for the worst of us, **and then he sent us out to do likewise.**

Our Judgement of others should look a lot more like Jesus'.

2. You must forgive others.

Is there anybody in your life who has wronged you, and you say, "Oh, I'm not bitter; I've forgiven them," but you really would love to see something bad happen to them? That is the definition of bitterness.

Unforgiveness in the judgement seat.

Do you know what you are? You're in the judgment seat. You think you know what they deserve.

Do you really know? Do you really know everything they've been through? Do you really know what they deserve? Of course you don't. **Only God is qualified to sit in the seat you're in.**

If you continue to resent and be bitter and pull for bad things to happen to certain people who have wronged you ... It's making you hard. It's making you cold. It's making you ineffective in mission. It's hurting you in so many ways. Forgive.

I've had a hard time with this. (Story)

Why is it so hard? Because **forgiveness hurts**. To often, we want vindication more than we want reconciliation.

We don't want that person to go on thinking they're right. There needs to be some penance! And forgoing (Forgiving) that desire for penance... it hurts doesn't it?

It hurts our pride a little bit. It can hurt emotionally sometimes. Forgiveness always hurts.

Jesus knows the pain of forgiveness.

Far better than I do. You see, unlike me, he actually *is* qualified to be the judge. But look what he did, he stayed silent about the charges. He didn't vindicate himself. And through the pain he cried out, "Father forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing."

And he forgives me.

3. You need to stop judging yourself.

Some of us always walk around beating ourselves up, thinking things like, "I'm not good enough." or "I'm wasting my life." or "God can't use me. Look at me. I'm awful."

What is that? **You're in the judgment seat** of your life, and you're looking down at yourself. Every single day, if your performance is okay, well, that's all right. If your performance isn't very good, then you beat yourself up.

No condemnation

You may be here and feel like a sinner. You may be crushed with guilt over the things you've done. You feel condemned.

I'm here to tell you that only one person has the right to condemn you. And that's the judge. That's Jesus. **And he didn't.** Rather than condemn us for sin, he took upon himself the full weight of sin *to set us free from it.* So *now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

People don't judge me, I don't judge me, only god.

There's a great place in **1 Corinthians 4**, where Paul says to his readers, "I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me."

Paul is saying, "Other people's opinion doesn't define me. In fact, my own opinion doesn't even define me. Only God can do that."

Conclusion

Get out of the judgment seat toward other people.
Get out of the judgment seat toward those who've hurt you.
Get out of the judgment seat toward yourself.

The trial is over, the verdict is in. He loves you. He accepts you. Let him judge you.