**Antigo Community Church – August 6, 2023**

**Title: Don’t Be Amazed – Be Prepared!**

**Text: John 5:24-30**

Introduction/Review

Last week Pastor Todd aptly walked us through Jesus’ defense of his deity having been questioned by the religious leaders as to why he healed on the Sabbath.

It all began when a man who had been crippled for 38 years was seen walking around, completely healed, carrying his mat. Why the brouhaha – it was the Sabbath! When questioned why, he responded, “The man who made me well told me to.” Simple enough!

Recap:

The man didn’t know who it was who healed him.

Later – at the Temple – Jesus introduces himself and says, “See you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”

The man goes away and tells the religious leaders that it was Jesus who healed him.

Sabbath controversy: Intentional on the part of Jesus to confront the religious leaders on their hypocrisy – they would work around their own “traditions” to do what they pleased.

The Sabbath was all about restoring, replenishing, and repairing the tired, broken and weary. So why did the religious leaders care more about the rules than healing? They were all about “advice” – what you should do, rather than “announcement” – what has been done for you.

Advice vs. Announcement - Gospel

Jesus’ response AMAZED them and it should amaze us too.

To be AMAZED– filled with wonder, greatly surprised, awestruck, breathless – positive characteristics… It can also be associated with being appalled, offended, and shocked.

We see both possibilities in the exchange that ensues:

John 5:16 “…the Jews persecuted him (Jesus).” Not sure what form – but certainly there would have been a verbal assault.

Jesus’ defense: “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.”

My Father = Yahweh, God

As a defense, this only makes sense if Jesus claiming to be God as well. And he was. And that is what they understood.

The religious leaders were AMAZED – in the shocked, appalled, offended sense of the word – and they sought – harder than ever to kill Jesus.

Jesus doesn’t back down, he doubles down on his claim – giving further evidence that they heard him correctly when he claimed to be God. As pastor Todd said:

**Jesus is equal to God in:**

**Being – Jesus calls God his Father 5:17**

**Works – Jesus said, “… whatever the Father does the Son does also.” 5:20**

**Power – “Just as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to**

 **whom he is pleased to give it.” 5:21**

**His Judgments – “… the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son.” 5:22**

**John 5:20**

**“For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he (God) will show him (Jesus) even greater things than these.”**

To this and the miracles he has already performed, and those yet to come, Jesus says – BE AMAZED!

And they are: some are awestruck with wonder and believe and others witness the same miraculous evidence and are appalled and offended and remain in unbelief.

Insiders/Outsiders - Parables

Regardless - all are amazed!

In doing all that the Father shows Jesus, all that He gives him to do/say, Jesus is revealing (exegeting, narrating) the Father to the world.

This, then, brings us to our text for this morning, where Jesus continues his discourse with the religious leaders.

**Scripture Reading**

**John 5:24-30 (NIV)**

Jesus continues… verse 24 “I tell you the truth” Truly, Truly… If you hear, and believe Him who sent me – you’ll have eternal life.

Evidence – belief – life – (John 20:31)

Eternal life - You will not be condemned – John 3:18 – whoever believes is not condemned… whoever does not believe is condemned already… crossed over from death to life!

Tie to verse 21 – “… the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.” Explain – to whom is he pleased to give it? The one who believes!

Verse 25 – “… a time is coming and has now come…”

Coming – at the last day – when the dead are raised…

Now come – Lazarus (physically) but not just physical life – spiritual life, now, to all who believe!

Jesus now turns his attention to the future:

A time coming when the dead will hear the voice of Son of God… There is power in Jesus’ words – he has already demonstrated that:

The healing of the officials son (John 4:43ff) Official – “Come down before my child dies.” Jesus replies “You may go. Your son will live.” The official took Jesus at his word…. The exact time of healing? When Jesus said “Your son will live!”

Crippled man at the pool of Bethesda… “Get up!” the man is cured.

A time is coming when Jesus will speak and the dead will hear and live (v. 25)

How is that possible?

Verse 26 “For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.”

The Story of Reality – Jesus has life in himself. Our life is dependent on others/God – we are dependent.

Parents’ heretical statement - “I gave you life, I can take it away!”

By definition, God is self-existent – an act of belonging to eternity. Speaking of the Son…

**John 1:4**

**“In him was life, and that life was the light of men.”**

**1 John 1:1-2**

**“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and has appeared to us.”**

Jesus is life – contrast to our current culture of death - Light/darkness

Abortion

Euthanasia – right to die… obligation to die

Utilitarianism – who should live, “reducing the population” – to save the planet

Because Jesus has life within himself, he can give life to whom he pleases.

**Jesus is the Life-giver**

Verse27 “And he (God) has given him authority to judge because he (Jesus) is the Son of Man.

This explains how Jesus can exercise judgment and resurrection life by the power of his word – because he is the Son of Man.

**Daniel 7:13-14**

**“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all people, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”**

**Jesus is the Son of Man with ultimate authority**

Jesus – the Son of Man receives authority, sovereign power, everlasting dominion. All peoples and nations will worship him. His kingdom will never end. Therefore:

DO NOT BE AMAZED! This naturally follows based on the fact that Jesus is the Son of Man!

Verses 28-29 - a time coming when – ALL who are in their graves will hear and rise - those who have done good – will rise to live; those who have done evil will rise to be condemned…

Works salvation? No

Rise to life – living in the light – the truth – crossed over from death to life – believers

**John 3:21**

**“But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”**

Rise to condemnation **–** living in darkness, refusing the light

**John 3:20**

**“Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”**

If time use 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Revelation 20:11-15 to explain this further

Jesus will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in him (believers) dead in Christ will rise first We who remain will be caught up together with them

Unbelieving dead – remain in the grave until the Great White Throne Judgment

Books are opened – judged for deeds

Book of Life - if name is not written – cast into the lake of fire

So, Today…

**Be Amazed that Jesus is:**

 **God**

 **The Life-giver**

 **The Son of Man**

But:

**Don’t be Amazed that Jesus has the authority to raise and judge the dead, rather, be prepared.**

Gospel