

As you read...

Today as you read, take note of the rich picture Jesus paints of this promise of life that is found in Him and Him alone. As Jesus continues His conversation with the Jews, He speaks of That Final Day of resurrection when all will rise from their graves and those who believe in Him will rise to eternal life. Notice, too, the claims that Jesus makes about the scriptures: they point to Him.

The Jews with whom Jesus is speaking are missing the point. Rather than celebrating the miracle that a man could now walk, they become preoccupied with the do's and don'ts of the law. As they get lost in the details, they lose sight of the *life* that's found in Jesus.

How often does this happen for you?

Each day is filled with opportunities to become distracted and preoccupied with the details. Sometimes we're distracted by our busy schedules, other times we distract ourselves with details when we lose that feeling of control over our lives. We tell ourselves, "If only I could get those details right, then I could regain control of my life."

Jesus' invitation for you today is for us to see Him and, in so doing, see *life*. Embrace the big picture and let go of the details. See how the scriptures point to Him from the beginning. Picture That Final Day when He will return and all will be raised.

See *yourself* in that big picture today. Jesus has given you life so that on That Day you, too, will be raised to *life* again.

Read [John 5:24-47](#)

Life and Judgment

²⁴ “Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal **life** and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to **life**.

²⁵ “Truly I tell 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 just as the Father has **life** in himself, so also he has granted to the Son to have **life** in himself. ²⁷ And he has granted him the right to pass judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out—those who have done good things, to the resurrection of **life**, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation.

³⁰ “I can do nothing on my own. I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

Witnesses to Jesus

³¹ “If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. ³² There is another who testifies about me, and I know that the testimony he gives about me is true. ³³ You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. ³⁴ I don’t receive human testimony, but

I say these things so that you may be saved. ³⁵ John was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

*³⁶ “But I have a greater testimony than John’s because of the works that the Father has given me to accomplish. These very works I am doing testify about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ The Father who sent me has himself testified about me. You have not heard his voice at any time, and you haven’t seen his form. ³⁸ You don’t have his word residing in you, because you don’t believe the one he sent. ³⁹ You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal **life** in them, and yet they testify about me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have **life**.*

⁴¹ “I do not accept glory from people, ⁴² but I know you—that you have no love for God within you. ⁴³ I have come in my Father’s name, and yet you don’t accept me. If someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, since you accept glory from one another but don’t seek the glory that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. ⁴⁷ But if you don’t believe what he wrote, how will you believe my words?”

Questions

1. Jesus begins this reading by talking about the resurrection and how each person will meet one of two destinations: life or condemnation. What from verses 24-30 would lead you to one or the other?
2. Jesus warns the Jews for thinking they have eternal life in the scriptures (verses 39-40). Why might the Jews have thought that by reading or learning scripture alone they would be given eternal life?
3. The Jews were looking for life in the scriptures and were missing what was right there in front of them. Where are you looking for life and not finding it? Relationships? Social media? Addictions? Talk about these with a parent, mentor, or trusted adult today.

A moment to pray.

Holy Spirit, clear my mind. I would like to see the bigger picture today of what you are working and doing in my life. Give me clarity, give me wisdom, and help me to navigate every conversation today embracing the life You have given to me in Jesus. Clear away distractions and help me to find life solely in Jesus. In His name. Amen.