Series: Hope Again

**Like Father Like Son**

John 5:16-29 May 21, 2017

1. Be careful whom you honour. (vv. 16 – 23)

*Life was designed to live in awe of Jesus Christ.*

Chris Cornell: At the end of the day it’s the fans who make you who you are.

a. Religious people can honour their traditions instead of God.

* v. 16 *And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus,*

*because he was doing these things on the Sabbath.*

* v. 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.*

b. Irreligious people can honour Jesus as a mascot for their cause.

* v. 19 *whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise*
* v. 21 *For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.*
* v. 22 *For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son*
* Is Jesus ‘mad, bad or God?’

c. Jesus’ life was lived to lead you to worship Him.

* v. 20 *And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.*
* vv. 22-23 *For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father.*

Q. Chris Cornell may have worshipped his fans. What are some other things people ‘worship?’

Q. Jesus revealed the true heart of the religious authorities and showed that they worshipped their traditions instead of God. What symptoms might you expect to see in someone at Grace Baptist who worshipped their traditions instead of God?

Q. What evidence do you see in your own life of marvelling at Jesus and honouring Him as He’s revealed Himself? Where do you feel you need to grow in this?

2. Be careful how you medicate. (vv. 24-26)

*Only Jesus brings life out of the death of this world.*

Chris Cornell: I also know what it feels like to have money, to be successful, to be independent, but I can tell you that money and success never solve your problems.

a. The Walking Dead isn’t just a TV show.

* v. 24 *passed from death to life*
* v. 25 *the dead will hear the voice … those who hear will live*

b. We can receive life but Jesus has life in Himself.

* v. 26 *For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.*

c. Dead people find life by hearing and believing.

* v. 24 *whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life*
* v. 25 *those who hear will live*

Q. Why does Jesus refer to people who haven’t yet put their trust in Him as dead?

Q. How does the category of spiritual death help make sense of some of the darkness in our world?

Q. What did Jesus mean by ‘hearing His word?’ How do you know that you’re hearing Him?

Q. What should you do if you feel you don’t really hear Him?

3. Be careful what you hope for. (vv. 27-29)

*Only Jesus brings life out of the death of the grave.*

Chris Cornell: There's something about losing friends, particularly young people, where it's not something that you get over. I don't believe there's a healing process.

a. Facing the reality of death and judgment is often the first step to a new life.

* v. 28 *Do not marvel at this*
* v. 27 *authority to execute judgment*

b. Jesus has the authority to open our graves.

* v. 27 *he has given him authority to execute judgment*
* vv. 28-29 *all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out*

c. At the final judgment, our works will show whom we have truly worshipped.

* v. 24 *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*
* v. 29 *those who have done good to the resurrection of life*
* v. 29 *those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment*

Q. How would your view of life change if you didn’t believe in a final judgment?

Q. Verse 24 says that whoever believes will *not come into judgment* but v.29 says that judgment is on the basis of whether we have done *good* or *evil*. How can both statements be true?

Q. If we’re saved through faith, why would Jesus talk about our being judged by our works?

Study ahead: After next week’s guest speaker, we’ll begin a new series called Sacrifice starting in Leviticus 1:1-17 and 6:8-13.

**Notes:**