

“God the Son – His Call.”

John 5:39-47

Hello friend and welcome to *Hope for Today*. My name is J. Mark Horst; I’m your friend and Bible teacher. The program you’re listening to is produced by Heralds of Hope, an international Gospel radio and literature ministry. Thousands are tuning in each week to receive spiritual nourishment and blessing.

Each week the Bible teaching broadcasts of *Heralds of Hope* circle the globe in English and 20 other major languages. And our Bible teaching programs in several languages are available all the time and any time at the website, *twr360.org*. That’s *twr360.org*. Thousands are tuning in for spiritual nourishment and blessing. You can join them and be blessed too.

My friend, do you have hope? Or is your heart filled with disappointment, fear, and despair? I know, life can be hard, and people can sometimes be cruel in the way they treat us. But if you and I know Jesus, we can have hope because we know that this life is not all there is to our existence. Our bodies are mortal, that is, we will all die. But our spirits are immortal, they will live on forever.

Several weeks ago, I had the privilege of sharing the message at the memorial service for a lady in our community. She was a Christ-follower, so she wasn’t afraid of dying when her time came. In fact, she actually wrote down some of things she wanted at her memorial service. She had the assurance that she belonged to Jesus and that gave her hope.

One of the Scripture passages she wanted to be shared at her memorial service was John 14, verses 1 to 3. Listen. *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions (or dwelling places); if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”*

Now, my friend, that is hope. That’s assurance. That’s a promise that can encourage you in the dark and difficult moments of life. If you’re a Christ-follower, then Jesus is planning to come and take you to be with Him! What a wonderful comfort that should be.

In just a few moments, Dr. Yoder will present today’s teaching from the Gospel of John. But before he does that, let’s pray.

Gracious Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you for this promise of Jesus that He is preparing a place for us with you. Father, we long for that day when sin will be forever banished and righteous rule in the earth and in the hearts of all humanity.

And now, Father, as Dr. Yoder comes to open the Word for us, I pray that you will open our hearts to the truth. I pray for my listening friend to understand where he or she can find the help they need to walk the pathway of life. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Now, here's Dr. Yoder with today's teaching.

There are many who know something about Jesus. Some know only His name. Others know little more about Him. They know He was born in Bethlehem. They know He grew up in Nazareth and Galilee. They know His teaching was carried on throughout the Holy Land and often in the city of Jerusalem. They even know that He was crucified on Calvary outside the old city of Jerusalem. And they know the record says that He was raised from the dead. But all this knowledge is useless unless the person who knows these facts about Jesus accepts Him for who He is, God the Son.

There must be an acceptance. There must be a response. Jesus understood human nature and issued His call first to His own people, the Jews. And He did it in these words found in John 5:39-47. Here is a word from Jesus to the people of His day.

39 *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they, which testify of me.*

40 *And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.*

41 *I receive not honor from men.*

42 *But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.*

43 *I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.*

44 *How can ye believe, which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that cometh from God only?*

45 *Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.*

46 *For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.*

47 *But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?*

You see how He issued His call to His own people, the Jews? And now He issues it to us. In His call Jesus included several GOALS He wanted us to reach.

The first was **The Goal of Eternal Life.**

He said, "Search the scriptures." Eternal life is found in the Bible. How precious! How wonderful that God has offered to us the opportunity of finding eternal life in that He has given us the Bible. We can open God's Word and find life. Jesus said so. "Search the scriptures; for they are they which testify of me." And He said, "In them you think you have eternal life."

Not only do they think so, but the Scriptures actually generate life. The goal of eternal life is found in the Scriptures.

Here is another great truth. Jesus said that eternal life is bound to the will. He said, "You will not come to me that you might have life." My friend, I want you to hear the word of Jesus. You wonder, "How can I get eternal life?" Here it is. Break down your will and come to Jesus. You are responsible. He said, "You will not come to me that you might have life." Your will stands in your way. Decide now to exercise your will in His direction and come to Jesus. Then you will have life.

In issuing His call He wanted us to reach the goal of eternal life. His call includes for you the great goal of eternal life. Search for it.

The second goal that Jesus wants you to reach is **The Goal of Divine Love.**

Divine love is necessary for real living and it is only possible with the proper attitude toward God the Son. He said, "I know you do not have the love of God in you." He was talking to His opponents gathered around Him. He said, "I am come in my Father's name and you do not receive me.

Do you see what I mean? Divine love is only possible through a proper attitude toward God the Son. Divine love can come into your heart when you receive Jesus. He came in His Father's Name. And He said to those about Him, "You do not receive me: if another shall come in his own name, him you will receive."

I warn you, deception is very, very possible. Jesus warned us about that. He goes on to say, "How can you believe, who receive honor one of another and seek not the honor that comes from

God only?” They were deeply concerned about those people around them. They were not so much concerned about the One above them.

If we could get things straightened out and recognize that our most important relationship is to God through God’s Son, we can then experience divine love. The love of God can be shed abroad in our hearts. This is the goal.

When He issued the call He included the goal of divine love. Let the love of God fill your heart. How do you do that? Open your heart to Him. Acknowledge and recognize the Son who came in the Father’s Name. That is how you get the love of God. That is how you attain the goal of divine love. You confess that the Son came in the Father’s Name and that He is the Son of God.

There is a final goal Jesus included when He issued His call. It is **The Goal of United Learning**.

Here is something of utmost importance, my friend. It is this: Moses and Jesus agree. Jesus said, “I am not going to accuse you. Already there is one who accuses you and he is Moses in whom you trust.”

Jesus took no position against Moses. Moses was God’s man to receive the law on Mt. Sinai. Jesus said that Moses wrote about Him. There is no opposition between Moses and Jesus. There is no disagreement between them.

Now, what did Moses write about Jesus? You’ll find that in Deuteronomy 18:15-19. The LORD your God will raise up unto you a Prophet from the midst of you, of your brothers, one like me. Unto him you shall listen...I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brothers, like you, and will put my words in his mouth. And he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And whoever will not listen to my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Jesus said, “Moses wrote about me.” Moses can teach us truth about Jesus. Now listen, Jesus also said, “If you believe not his writings, how shall you believe my words?”

My friend, Jesus insisted there is united learning. What you learn from Moses you learn from Jesus. What you learn from Jesus you learn from Moses. Jesus’ call for you includes the goal of united learning, understanding how Moses and Jesus agree.

God the Son calls you and me. Have you heard His call. He calls you to eternal life. He calls you to divine love. He calls you to united learning. These goals can be yours when you respond to Him. When you say, “yes” to Him.

Thank you, Dr. Yoder for sharing with us the goals of Jesus' call. My friend, have you responded to Jesus' call? Have you said 'yes' to His offer of forgiveness and pardon for all your sins? He longs to have a relationship with you and to share with you His peace and joy. I urge you, if you don't know Him, accept His offer of salvation today!

Now, if you were blessed by this teaching and would like an audio CD or a printed copy of it, just write and ask for the teaching "God the Son – His Call." We would be happy to send a copy to you as soon as we receive your request.

The quickest way for you to contact me is to send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. That e-mail address is mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember, you can request a printed manuscript or an audio CD of this teaching, "God the Son – His Call." I'd be happy to send one to you.

If you have questions about the Bible or how to live as a Christ-follower, we invite you to send those questions to us. We will take your questions to the Holy Scripture and find an answer. We want to help you grow in your understanding of God's Word and in your relationship with Him. So, write to us today. Here's the contact information again.

Send an e-mail to mail@heraldsofhope.org. Or you may write to *Hope for Today*, Box 3, Breezewood, Pennsylvania 15533. Remember; you can request a free copy of this teaching, "God the Son – His Call." It's available in print or on an audio CD.

And don't forget our Bible teaching programs are available to you all the time and any time at the website, twr360.org. That's twr360.org. Thousands are logging on to the site for spiritual nourishment and blessing. You can join them and be blessed too!

Now, I urge you to tune in next week as Dr. Yoder continues our study in John's Gospel. And until then, keep looking for that blessed HOPE.