



# Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

**Worship Theme – Live Free from the Fear of Judgment**

**Sermon Theme – Free from fear to live in Jesus**

**November 16-18, 2024**

**John 5:25-29** Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

1. What makes you feel self-conscious? When do you feel self-conscious?

Dancing for this guy. The exception to that would be if I'm with close friends who've known me for forever and we're all being complete goobers. I can come out of my shell then. Other instances would be if I miss speak in a way that's embarrassing. Usually, that can be walked back, a laugh had, and the conversation and move on. Other times though, I can be made to feel pretty foolish. What about you?? Fun question, right?  
Answers will vary. Care to share only if it won't make you self-conscious :)

2. What does it mean to live free from the fear of judgment, both from God and from others?

Living free of fear of judgment means embracing and holding dear to the truth that through faith in Jesus, we are declared guiltless, loved immensely by him, and that all our deficiencies more than made up for in him. This knowledge is freedom and it empowers

us to live authentically, to be who we are, without the crippling weight of self-consciousness or the need to perform for others' approval. Dance happily and confidently knowing that the eyes of Jesus which watch you always are situated above a beaming smile. His opinion of you is the one which counts the most.

3. How does Jesus' power to save and his self-stated purpose in coming to this world of giving us life to the full broaden our perspective on present and the future?

Jesus' power to give life – both spiritually now and physically in the resurrection – grounds us securely in living hope. Now, we live knowing eternal life has already begun; fear of death and its consequences no longer have mastery over us. Looking to the future, we anticipate the resurrection with joy, not dread, because our friend and brother, Jesus, welcomes us to heaven with open arms. With that greatest need securely taken care of, we approach challenges and suffering knowing that in the scale of eternity, they are very temporary indeed.

4. What does it mean that we have “crossed over from death to life” (John 5:24)? How does this affect our daily lives?

This means that faith in Jesus has already brought us into eternal life. We are no longer spiritually dead in sin but alive in Christ. This reality defining truth shapes our daily lives by filling us with both peace and purpose. It compels us to live boldly and joyfully, engaging in acts of love and service, knowing our ultimate future is secure. It allows us to view our struggles and failures through the lens of grace.

5. Why are the dual natures of Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, so significant for us when it comes to final judgment?

Jesus' divinity assures us he has authority and power to save, while his humanity makes him our perfect mediator. As the Son of Man, he knows our struggles by way of lived experience and represents us with much compassion. He was judged in our place, fulfilling God's justice. Because of this, we can trust him

completely as our judge knowing he advocates for us, not against us. His victory and the gift of the Holy Spirit guarantees our acquittal. Knowing that Jesus is both our friend and judge assures us that we won't face condemnation. We trust that the one who showed the greatest love (greater love has none than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends) will return to bring us to eternal life. So we are blessed to be able to await judgment rejoicing!

6. Knowing that Jesus' righteousness is ours by faith is the only thing which proves truly helpful when we're struggling with guilt, feelings of unworthiness, and fear when facing judgment. What sections of the Bible come to your mind which give you this comfort?

Knowing that Jesus' righteousness is credited to us reminds us that our worth and standing before God don't depend on our performance but on his grace. When guilt or feelings of unworthiness arise, we fly to Jesus, trusting his work done to the Father's complete satisfaction on our behalf. This truth silences accusations we drudge up against ourselves and those volleyed against us externally, allowing us to find real rest and relief in his unchanging love. We live in the freedom of Jesus, not burdened by our failures but set free by Jesus perfect successes.

7. Jesus loves us and no one can say "boo-hiss" about it! How does that free you to serve others more authentically and humbly? Freedom from fear allows us to focus on others without worrying about how we're perceived or whether our efforts will be appreciated. When we're secure in God's love and the peace of knowing what his judgment looks like for us for Jesus' sake, we can serve selflessly, seeing no task as beneath us and no person as unworthy of our care. This directly mirrors Jesus' humility and radical love because it's his love working in us and through us! His love both saves and inspires us to serve even though deemed unworthy by sinful and worldly standards.

8. What does it look like to live as someone who "walks in Jesus' footsteps," set free from fear of judgment?

Walking in Jesus' footsteps means living with bold humility and radical love. It involves defying societal norms by prioritizing compassion over competition, forgiveness over retaliation, and service over self-promotion. This might mean befriending the outcast, speaking the truth in love without fear of backlash to a sister or brother in Christ, or offering grace to those who least expect it. Living free in Jesus means rejoicing in perpetual full and free forgiveness and reflecting his character in our relationships, work, and worship, confident that our future is secure in him.