

TEXT: John 5:1-9

INTRO: The Word of God is made up of 2 Testaments, 66 books, 929 chapters in the Old Testament and 260 chapters in the New Testament for a total of 1,189 chapters, and 31,103 Verses and, someone said it has 807,361 words.

I do not know how many words there are in the Word of God, except for the information that I just gave you. However, I do know that there are some unusual things taught through these words.

Notice The Following:

A) There Are Sweet Words - John 3:16-18

¹⁶ For God so greatly loved *and* dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.

¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world in order to judge (to reject, to condemn, to pass sentence on) the world, but that the world might find salvation *and* be made safe *and* sound through Him.

¹⁸ He who believes in Him [who clings to, trusts in, relies on Him] is not judged [he who trusts in Him never comes up for judgment; for him there is no rejection, no condemnation—he incurs no damnation]; but he who does not believe (cleave to, rely on, trust in Him) is judged already [he has already been convicted and has already received his sentence] because he has not believed in *and* trusted in the name of the only begotten Son of God. [He is condemned for refusing to let his trust rest in Christ's name.]

1st Corinthians 15:34 “Awake [from your drunken stupor and return] to sober sense *and* your right minds, and sin no more. For some of you have not the knowledge of God [you are utterly and willfully and disgracefully ignorant, and continue to be so, lacking the sense of God's presence and all true knowledge of Him]. I say this to your shame.”

Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Greek Word: συνιστάω – synistaō - soon-is-tah'-o - to *set together*, i.e. (by implication) to *introduce* (favorably), or (figurative) to *exhibit*; intransitive to *stand near*, or (figurative) to *constitute* :- approve, commend, consist, make, stand (with).

B) There Are Strange Words:

1. To Live, You Must Die - John 12:24

“I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains [just one grain; it never becomes more but lives] by itself alone. But if it dies, it produces many others *and* yields a rich harvest.”

2. To Have More, You Must Give More - Luke 6:38

“Give, and [gifts] will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will they pour into [the pouch formed by] the bosom [of your robe and used as a bag]. For with the measure you deal out [with the measure you use when you confer benefits on others], it will be measured back to you.”

"Measure" involves weighing and judging. Be fair to others because **the measure you use** will return to you. If you are generous, generosity will be returned to you in full measure. If you are stingy and uncharitable, such will be the standards by which you are judged.

3. To Keep, You Must Loose - Mark 8:35-37

³⁵ For whoever wants to save his [higher, spiritual, eternal] life, will lose it [the lower, natural, temporal life which is lived only on earth]; and whoever gives up his life [which is lived only on earth] for My sake and the Gospel's will save it [his higher, spiritual life in the eternal kingdom of God].

³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life [in the eternal kingdom of God]?

³⁷ For what can a man give as an exchange (a compensation, a ransom, in return) for his [blessed] life [in the eternal kingdom of God]?

Within these verses the words **save** and **lose** show that Jesus was speaking not merely of physical life but of the essence of humanity: the soul. The sure way to save the soul is to lose it (entrust it to Jesus). There is no exchange rate high enough for the soul; money cannot buy it. Jesus' words echo [Psalm 49:7-9](#).

4. To Be Exalted, You Must Abase Yourself - Luke 18:10-14 Main Verse 14

¹⁰ Two men went up into the temple [enclosure] to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

¹¹ The Pharisee took his stand ostentatiously and began to pray thus before *and* with himself: God, I thank You that I am not like the rest of men—extortioners (robbers), swindlers [unrighteous in heart and life], adulterers—or even like this tax collector here.

¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I gain.

¹³ But the tax collector, [merely] standing at a distance, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but kept striking his breast, saying, O God, be favorable (be gracious, be merciful) to me, the especially wicked sinner that I am!

¹⁴ **I tell you; this man went down to his home justified (forgiven and made upright and in right standing with God), rather than the other man; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.**

There were times around the morning and evening sacrifices at **the temple** when people could **pray**, although private prayer at other times was allowed.

The Pharisee apparently kept the requirements of the Mosaic law and beyond (giving a **tenth** of earnings was all that was required). He was proud of his actions and his religious superiority to people such as the **tax collector**.

By contrast, the tax collector knew that, as a **sinner**, he deserved only God's wrath. Jesus emphasized that God's justification is available to the humble, while the self-exalting will be brought low.

C) There Are Soothing Words - Matthew 11:28

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden *and* overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.]”

John 14:1-2 ¹ DO NOT let your hearts be troubled (distressed, agitated). You believe in *and* adhere to *and* trust in *and* rely on God; believe in *and* adhere to *and* trust in *and* rely also on Me. ² In My Father's house there are many dwelling places (homes). If it were not so, I would have told you; for I am going away to prepare a place for you.

Hebrews 4:15-16 ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand *and* sympathize *and* have a shared feeling with our weaknesses *and* infirmities *and* liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning. ¹⁶ Let us then fearlessly *and* confidently *and* boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].

1st Peter 5:7 “Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately *and* cares about you watchfully.” See Psalm 55:22

BODY: But this morning/tonight we want to look at some of the saddest words in the Word of God spoken by 1st A Sinner, 2nd A Saint, and 3rd The Saviour.

I. THE SADDEST WORDS SPOKEN BY A SINNER - John 5:1-9

➤ **Notice Vs 7, "Sir; I have no man, to put me into the pool."**

A. See The Place Where He Is - John 5:1-2

¹ LATER ON there was a Jewish festival (feast) for which Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

² Now there is in **Jerusalem** a pool near the Sheep Gate. This pool in the Hebrew is called Bethesda, having five porches (alcoves, colonnades, doorways).

- **In Jerusalem, the city of God - Vs 2**
- **At the Temple, the house of God - Vs 2**
- **Near the Sheep gate, the place of sacrifice - Vs 2**
- **By the Pool, the place of cleansing - Vs 2**
- **On the Porch, The thing next to the door - Vs 2**

B. See The Position He Is In - John 5:3-7

³ In these lay a great number of sick folk—some blind, some crippled, and some paralyzed (shriveled up)—*waiting for the bubbling up of the water.*

⁴ *For an angel of the Lord went down at appointed seasons into the pool and moved and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was cured of whatever disease with which he was afflicted.*

⁵ There was a certain man there who had suffered with a deep-seated *and* lingering disorder for thirty-eight years.

⁶ When Jesus noticed him lying there [helpless], knowing that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, Do you want to become well? [Are you really in earnest about getting well?]

⁷ The invalid answered, Sir, I have nobody when the water is moving to put me into the pool; but while I am trying to come [into it] myself, somebody else steps down ahead of me.

- **He was helpless, -He wanted to get in but could not by himself.**
- **He was hopeless, -He had been there for 38 years.**
- **He was hindered -Another stepped in front of him.**

- He was hoping that someone would help him get in.
- Note the time element - Had to be when the waters were troubled!
- Vs 4 *Whosoever; Whatsoever; but not When-so-ever*

C. See The Picture He Gives - John 5:6-7

⁶ When Jesus noticed him lying there [helpless], knowing that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, Do you want to become well? [Are you really in earnest about getting well?]

⁷ The invalid answered, Sir, I have nobody when the water is moving to put me into the pool; but while I am trying to come [into it] myself, somebody else steps down ahead of me.

- Note the teaching element - **Could not get in all by himself.**

II. THE SADDEST WORDS SPOKEN BY A SAINT - Luke 11:5-8

The point of this story is that bold **persistence** pays off. But, as with the story of the widow and the judge in [18:1-8](#), it must not be understood that God is like the hesitant homeowner in the story. If bold persistence is rewarded even by someone who is disposed against granting our request, how much more so will God, who cares about His children, delight in responding generously to our persistent prayers.

A. The Expecting Pilgrim - Vs 5-6

⁵ And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves.

⁶ For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

B. The Embarrassed Person - Vs 5-6

C. The Excusing Parent - Vs 7-8

⁷ And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

⁸ I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

III. THE SADDEST WORDS SPOKEN BY THE SAVIOUR

A. To The Saints – Matthew 23:37

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, murdering the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a mother fowl gathers her brood under her wings, and you refused!”

In [Psalm 17:8](#); [91:4](#); and [Isaiah 31:5](#), the image of a **hen** sheltering her **chicks** portrayed Yahweh's protection of Israel. By rejecting Jesus, Jerusalem rejected God's protection. The image implies Jesus' identity as Yahweh.

B. To The Sinner – Matthew 7:21-23 Main Verse 23

²¹ Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven.

²² Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name?

²³ **And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly [disregarding My commands].** See Psalm 6:8

By referring to Himself as **Lord** and depicting Himself as the ultimate Judge of humanity, Jesus implied His deity. True disciples affirm Jesus' lordship, submit to His authority, and obey His commands.

Jesus insisted that a person is confirmed as a true disciple not by prophecy, exorcism, or working miracles but by living a transformed life made possible by God.

The disobedient lifestyles of **lawbreakers** are inconsistent with genuine discipleship. Jesus' words, **I never knew you**, show that these were never truly disciples.

Matthew 25:41 “Then He will say to those at His left hand, Begone from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!”

John 5:40 “And still you are not willing [but refuse] to come to Me, so that you might have life.”

C. To A Situation - Ezekiel 22:30

“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”

This proposal (I searched for a man among them who would repair the wall) is reminiscent of [Genesis 18:22-33](#), where God promised to spare Sodom and Gomorrah if only 10 righteous persons were found there.

Although we normally think of a prophet as one who represented God and delivered His word to the people, it is also true that the Bible includes intercession (stand in the gap) as part of a prophet's task ([1st Samuel 12:23](#); [Jeremiah 37:3](#); [42:2](#)).

Compare the task of the prophetic "watchman" ([Ezekiel 3:17-21](#); [33:1-6](#)).

SUMMARY: Sweet Words, Strange Words, Soothing Words, Sad Words.

CONCLUSION: Where do you stand with the Lord?

Prayer and Invitation: