

Witnesses to Jesus' Deity

John 5:31-47

I. **INTRO:** Summarize John 5 so far

A. The flow of this passage argues Jesus' deity

1. Jesus does a miracle intentionally on the Sabbath and then claims to be God's son. They get mad.
2. He argues, "Yea, I said it and I did the work too. I do whatever my DAD tells me to do." He then keeps telling them about his Father.
3. Then he gives 5 witnesses to prove that he is the Son of his Father basically saying, "Here's the proof and if you reject it that's on you because God has made it clear."

B. Today we look at these 5 witnesses

1. As a non-follower, listen to these examples
2. As a follower, learn what these mean for you as you share Jesus

II. John 5:31-47

A. *[31] If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. [32] There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. [33] You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. [34] Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. [35] He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.*

1. WITNESS #1: A life lived for Jesus

a) John the Baptist

- (1) Came to prepare a way for me
- (2) Talked about me, lived for me (humbled himself)
- (3) Not perfect, had doubts, but stayed the course

b) You

- (1) Paul: follow me as I follow Christ... Look at the outcome of my life and faith... Mimic me... You know the way that I lived, suffered, taught
- (2) A life lived for Jesus is a powerful testimony
 - (a) A sacrifice of what the culture tells you to pursue for a greater cause
 - (b) Peace in the midst of conflict or suffering
 - (c) Joy, patience, grace, forgiveness
- (3) Danger: double-life, hypocrisy, legalism, life lived out of ritual to "doing Christian things" rather than overflow
- (4) Live a sold-out life for Jesus. "Light yourself on fire with passion [for Jesus] and people will come from miles to watch you burn." - John Wesley

B. *[36] But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.*

1. WITNESS #2: The visible works of Jesus

- a) A key reason John was written
 - (1) 7 signs to show he is God and gives eternal life
 - b) Signs are shadows pointing to the substance
 - c) Signs prove I am from the Father
2. Miracles serve a purpose: they are normally evangelical in nature
- a) The Holy Spirit's role is to glorify the Son. The Son glorifies the Father. The HS doesn't seek to glorify himself, so if it doesn't glorify the Son, you should take a second whiff
 - b) Share miracle stories from Greece:
 - (1) Karim coming to faith -
 - (a) Raised Syrian Kurdish, a very strict Muslim.
 - (b) Decided to leave Syria because ISIS took over his region and he didn't want to fight, so he wanted to go to Turkey.
 - (c) Got stopped at a checkpoint by ISIS
 - (i) Would ask if you're Muslim
 - (ii) Wanted to know why his name wasn't more Muslim
 - (d) Bosnian ISIS soldier didn't believe him and took him off the bus, threw him in prison for re-education or execution
 - (e) He was afraid, crying, praying. He heard a voice, "I am opening a door for you, go now"
 - (f) Went over and pushed the prison door open. Saw a light with a guard sleeping and passed in front of him. "Go now!"
 - (g) Ran outside, "Go Now!" Heard a bomb sound and he ran the opposite direction for a long time.
 - (h) Passed out from exhaustion. While in a coma, he heard a bell like a shepherd with sheep. A man approached him, "Don't worry, I will help you". Arab stranger gave him new clothes, money for the smuggler. Crossed during the 15 minutes during the changing of border shift between Syrian and Turkish border. Then later he realized that it was Jesus' voice. Andrew Branson's church led him to Christ in Turkey.
 - (2) Iraqi coming to faith by traveling to Moria
 - (3) My finger
 - c) We love miracles b/c they are exciting, but they should never replace the miracle worker
 - (1) All gifts should cause us to celebrate and thank the giver, not just live for the gift (ex: Christmas morning)
 - (2) Jesus is saying his miracles testify to his message and his identity - they're not parlor tricks!
3. What is the greatest miracle? The resurrection of the dead.
- a) Which is greater, the dead (physically and spiritually) brought to life to live forever in paradise or my finger being healed?

4. A changed life, a resurrected life, is a remarkably powerful testimony.
- a) Drug addicts changed... terrorists changed... marriages saved...
- C. *[37] And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, [38] and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.*
- 1. WITNESS #3: The Father's voice**
- a) Voice boomed from heaven at my baptism
 - b) A miracle, right? Absolutely!
 - c) But look what he says, "You heard his voice, but you never heard his voice, and you definitely don't have his Word abiding in you."
 - d) You don't hear him nor see him b/c you reject his Word
2. So often, people think, "If I saw something miraculous, then I would believe." I'm gonna call your bluff.
- a) If the Words of God aren't enough for you, neither are the miracles
 - b) Sun goes dark at the crucifixion, just an eclipse
 - c) God parts the Red Sea? It was probably just super shallow during a drought
 - d) Someone gets cured of cancer? The body is capable of amazing things!
 - e) If you don't have faith, then you don't have faith
3. Peter heard God's voice a few times and you know what he says?
- a) We have the Word even more fully confirmed than that miraculous voice than we heard
 - (1) Why? Because my senses can lie; my heart can deceive me; I can see something I want to see rather than something that is, but the Word is the Word is the Word
 - b) Which leads us to...
- D. *[39] You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, [40] yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.*
- 1. WITNESS #4: The Scriptures**
- a) The Scriptures all point to Jesus
 - b) Why I love the DBS and why the Word works (and always has)
2. Jews thought "knowing" the Scripture meant salvation
- a) Danger in this and it is very common to our world too
3. Scriptures point to someone greater
- a) Not just a religion, worldview, set of rules
 - b) Someone, a relationship w/ God - a return to the Garden
4. The Scriptures point to Jesus' deity, but knowing that Jesus is God is different from submitting to him as God
- a) "You say God is one? Good, so do the demons. And shudder!"
- E. *[41] I do not receive glory from people. [42] But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. [43] I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. [44] How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? [45] Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. [46] For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. [47]*

But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

1. WITNESS #5: People who proclaim the truth of God

- a) Moses was a prophet who proclaimed the truth of God. The Jews said they believed him, but he wrote about Jesus, looked to him
 - b) "You pretend like you follow the Scriptures and the Law w/ your rules, but the one who wrote the Law condemns you. He looked forward to me, but you reject me. Therefore, you reject the one to whom you cling."
 - c) "If you don't believe Moses, you won't believe the Prophets and if you don't believe them, then you won't believe anything I say"
2. You and me:
- a) We proclaim the Words of God. Not with cleverness of speech or wordsmithing, but with truth, grace, and the power of the Holy Spirit
 - b) Some will hear, some will reject, but they won't do either if you stay silent.

III. DISCOVERY STUDY:

A. What does this teach about Jesus?

1. Jesus claimed to be and is the Son of God.

- a) The OT points towards the reality that Jesus is God
 - b) The Gospel confirms that Jesus is God
 - c) The rest of the NT reaffirms that Jesus is God
2. It is crucial that Jesus is God b/c a holy being had to be punished as a substitute for unholy people so that unholy people could be made holy
- a) *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor 5:21)*

3. God the Father has provided ample witnesses to show us that Jesus is God the Son.

B. What does this teach about people?

1. **We reject things that don't fit into our preconceived conclusions.**
2. **If you won't believe his Words, don't deceive yourself and think that a miracle would convince you.**

- a) Very graciously, God sometimes does the miraculous
- b) But the Word is greater than the miraculous

3. **If you listen to the witnesses, you will see that Jesus is God.**

- a) If we have eyes to see, we will see.
- b) Ex: young man in Thessaloniki → if you seek God in humility, he will reveal himself, but if you just want to argue and not get answers, why would he reveal to you? // came to faith this week!

C. If this is true, what do we do?

1. **Listen to the witnesses!**

- a) Friends, families, changed lives, Scripture, DBS

2. **Be an accurate witness!**

- a) As you abide, hear & obey, overflow