

Jesus Testifies about Jesus

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #16)

John 5:31-47

A. In John 5:16-30, the first part of Jesus' message, he claimed to be not only fully human, but also to be the Son of God, fully divine

B. In John 5:31-47, Jesus provides the testimonies to back up his claim

THE TESTIMONIES (5:31-40)

A. (First) Jesus offers his own personal witness (5:31)

1. Jesus acknowledges that to be believed one's claims need to be backed up
2. Jesus says, "If you listen, you'll hear testimony that is veritable and verifiable"

B. (Second) The "another's" witness to his Son (5:32)

1. This "another" is the One Jesus calls, "My Father" and "The Advocate"

"The Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing" (John 5:19)

"I will ask the Father and he will give you another advocate to help you..." (John 14:16)

2. This "another" has already been bearing "witness"
3. This "another" is a witness bearer is the one convicting all who follow Jesus

C. (Third) Jesus offers the witness of John the Baptist (33-35)

1. John the Baptist had four specific things to say about Jesus:

- a. First, John announces Jesus as the long-expected, long predicted "Messiah"
- b. Second, John announces Jesus to be the "Lamb of God"
- c. Third, John announces Jesus to be the "Baptizer with the Holy Spirit"
- d. Fourth, John declares Jesus to be the "Son of God;" the Word made flesh!

2. Jesus says the witness of John will be used by God's Spirit to bring salvation (5:34 - "It is for the sake of your salvation that I say this")

- a. God uses our witness to bring salvation to people through His Spirit
- b. John notes John the Baptist's witness was used by God to bring his disciples to Jesus and to saving discipleship (1:29-35; 35-42)

"They were amazed at his teaching because his message had authority (i.e., shmecha)"
(Luke 4:32)

"You've have heard that it was said...but I say to you..." (cf. Matthew 5:27-43)

3. How did a rabbi get designated as "one with authority"? Two rabbi's with shmecha had to lay hands on the (new) rabbi

- a. At Jesus baptism, the Father's Spirit landed on Jesus: "This is my son whom I love; with him I am well pleased..." (Matthew 3:17)

b. At Jesus baptism, John the Baptizer said, "A man who comes after me surpasses me because he was before me." (John 1:30)

D. (Fourth) Jesus points out the witness of his works (5:36)

1. The works of the Father in Jesus are powerful, miraculous, and transforming
2. There are many works Jesus had already done; more were coming - his suffering, his crucifixion, sin-bearing atonement, death and resurrection!

"With human beings this is absolutely impossible; but with God everything is absolutely possible!" (Matthew 19:26)

E. Fifth, the witness of Scripture (5:37-40)

1. This invitation to check out God's Son in the Scriptures
 - a. Jesus' original listeners were very familiar with the [OT] Scriptures
 - b. But their great privilege had become the great missed opportunity - they had failed to see Jesus in them
2. Jesus longs for people to believe and follow him. Those who do are his disciples

THE TRAGEDY (5:41-47)

A. It is hard to lead thirsty people to water and then watch them walk away without drinking... What prevents them from drinking?

B. Jesus says the first obstacle is seeking the glory of others and not God (5:41-44)

1. Jesus tells his critics his life/mission is not about him; it's about His Father
2. Jesus warns us to be careful whom we believe and follow (5:31)
3. Jesus says seek the glory that comes from the Only God; it changes everything

C. The second obstacle is studying the Bible without focusing on its center - the Messiah (5:45-47)

1. Jesus' audience set their focus on Moses; Jesus says Moses focused on Him
2. Jesus says students of the Scripture must know it all points to Messiah

D. So where does this leave you?

1. It is not an easy question; Jesus didn't make it easy
2. Are you thirsty? Where are you going to quench that thirst?

"All you who are thirsty, come. Come to the waters..." (Isaiah 55:1a)

3. John 17:1 - "This is deep lasting life; that people know you, the Only True God, and Jesus Messiah, whom you sent!"