

“The Gospel of John: The Five Witnesses”

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Scripture

John 5:31-47

“If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not true.”

"There is another who testifies of Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth. But the testimony which I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was the lamp that was burning and was shining, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.”

"But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish-- the very works that I do-- testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.”

"And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent.”

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.”

"I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. "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. "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?

"Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

The Purpose for John’s Gospel

John 20:30-31

“Therefore, **many other signs Jesus also performed** in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that **believing** you may have life in His name.”

Last week, we saw that Jesus warned the Jews about the Coming Judgment

Some Christians do not believe in Hell or any judgment of Jesus to come -> **this is error and false teaching**

Instead, they will say that Jesus or God is too loving to send anyone to Hell

And yet, the story of the Rich man and Lazarus is in Luke

Luke 16:19-26

“Now there was a rich man, and he habitually **dressed in purple and fine linen**, joyously living in splendor every day. And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. "Now the poor man died and **was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom**; and the rich man also died and was buried.

"**In Hades**, he lifted up his eyes, **being in torment**, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. "And he cried out and said, **Father Abraham**, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' "**But Abraham said**, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now **he is being comforted here**, and **you are in agony**. And **besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.**"

What do we learn from this Hellish example?

Hell (or Hades) is a defined place from which there is no escape

The rich man was royalty being dressed in purple and fine linen, living in splendor

Lazarus was poor -> not the same Lazarus which was raised from the death who had some wealth

He called Abraham “Father” -> He is Jewish (or perhaps Muslim in modern times)?

Lazarus is being comforted in Heaven -> the rich man **is in agony in Hell**

Two weeks ago, we discussed Jesus's words to the Jews

They understood what He was saying:

John 5:18

“The Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, **making Himself equal with God.**”

Jesus claimed to be God -> and He is!

John recorded these words as he continues to build out his case that Jesus is God

So, what does John do: “Call your witnesses, John!”

Witness of Jesus

John 5:31

“If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not true.”

Jesus took the stand with His own statement

Jesus testified to the Jews that He was God, but they didn't accept His words -> they did not believe Him

Jesus's words alone would not win them over

He understands that the Jews will not accept His words -> **They needed more witnesses** than Himself alone

The Jews **required two or three witnesses** for court proceedings (**Deuteronomy 17:6**)

Jesus provided 4 additional witnesses to the Jews that John records for us

Witness of John the Baptist

John 5:32-35

"There is another who testifies of Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true. **You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth.** "But the testimony which I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. "**He was the lamp that was burning and was shining**, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light."

The Jews visited John when he started his ministry of baptism for the repentance of sins:

John 1:19-23

"This is the testimony of John, **when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him**, "Who are you?" and he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, "**I am not the Christ.**" They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "**Are you the Prophet?**" And he answered, "No." Then they said to him, "**Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us?** What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

The Jews regularly sent people to investigate any noted prophet or ministry

John 1:29-30

"The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, **the Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world! "This is He on behalf of whom I said, after me comes **a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.**"

John's testimony about Jesus was known to the Jews

He called Jesus the "the lamb of God"

The phrase may have **reminded Jews of Abraham's planned sacrifice of Isaac**

Isaac asks where the lamb of sacrifice is, Abraham tells him:

Genesis 22:8

"God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son"

John was known to be older than Jesus, yet **John said that Jesus existed before him**

The phrase would also **remind Jews of the Passover traditions** -> **taking a lamb into the house as a pet for 4 days**

Then killing it violently and spreading the blood on the altar of sacrifice

Or on the doorpost, for **the first Passover in Egypt**

Jesus said:

"But the testimony which I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved."

1 John 5:9

"If we receive the testimony of men, **the testimony of God is greater.**"

Jesus is trying to fit into their understanding – **they didn't know God**

Obviously, because God showed up and they didn't recognize Him

"He was the lamp that was burning and was shining, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light."

John had a short life as the forerunner of Jesus, eventually beheaded by Herod

Jesus had great things to say about John the Baptist:

Matthew 11:11

"Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist!"

But there was something better than the word of John:

Witness of Works

John 5:36

"But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for **the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish**-- the very works that I do-- testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me."

We've only covered **THREE** of Jesus's miracles so far in our study of John

We've cover another one next week with the **Feeding of the Five Thousand**

John the Baptist heard about Jesus's works and needed to know, for sure:

Matthew 11:2-6

"Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, "**Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?**"

Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."

Jesus quoted Isaiah 35 and 61

Isaiah 35:4-6

"The recompense of God will come, But He will save you. Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy."

Jesus's works:

- Jesus made the lame walk: We saw that a few weeks ago in John 5
- Jesus created new eyes for a blind man: We'll cover that in John 9
- Jesus cleansed the lepers: Luke 17:11-19
- Jesus healed the deaf mute: Mark 7:31-37
- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead: We'll see that in John 11

Isaiah 61:1-2

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me **to bring good news to the afflicted**; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, **to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners**; **To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD** and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn"

Jesus read this in the synagogue and attributed it to Himself -> they tried to throw Him off a cliff

John 8:32

"You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free"

Jesus did so many works that John exclaims in the last verse of his gospel:

John 21:25

"There are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, **I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books** that would be written."

We could talk for hours about the works Jesus did, but we need to move on

Jesus said God the Father witnessed about Him:

Witness of the Father

John 5:37-38

"And the Father who sent Me, **He has testified of Me**. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form. "You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent."

Back to the verse in 1 John 5:

1 John 5:9

"If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; **for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.**"

When did the Father witness about Jesus?

At His Baptism:

Matthew 3:16-17

"After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, **a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."**

At His Transfiguration:

Matthew 17:5

“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, **a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"**”

The Father would later witness about Jesus also at His Ascension:

Acts 1:9

“He was lifted up while they were looking on, and **a cloud received Him** out of their sight.”

The Jews might not have been there for any of those occurrence of the Father’s witness.

Many were at His baptism because they were investigating John the Baptist

A fifth and final witness was the Scriptures:

Witness of the Scripture

John 5:39

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is **these that testify about Me.**”

Deuteronomy 18:15-18

“**The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you**, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. "This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.' "The LORD said to me, 'They have spoken well.

I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.”

In Isaiah alone, many Messianic Prophecies

Isaiah 7:14 -> The Coming Son

Isaiah 9:6-7 -> The Promised Child King

“**For a child will be born to us**, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”

Isaiah 11:1-5 -> The Root of Jesse, The Coming Messiah King

Isaiah 28:6 -> The Precious Cornerstone

Isaiah 53 -> The Suffering Servant Sacrifice

On the Road to Emmaus, Luke records of Jesus:

Luke 24:25-27

"He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" **Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures."**

So much evidence in Scripture, yet they would not believe in Jesus

Jewish State of Belief

John 5:40-44

"**You are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.** 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.** **How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?**

After all of the evidence is presented, Jesus said: They will never come to Me!

"You are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life"

No matter what I say, you will not believe Me...

Have you ever been around someone, tried to explain the gospel, and realized they will not come to belief?

John 6:44

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him"

The Father must draw people to Jesus

"I do not receive glory from men"

If Jesus wanted to get glory from men, He could have overthrown Rome and taken over

The disciples wanted that: **Acts 1:6** -> "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

"but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves"

Jesus knows all men -> He knew their hearts, **they had no real love for God**

This is a sad state: but do you know people who attend church regularly but have no real love for God?

"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.**"

The Jews would receive many supposed prophets on their own self-statement **IF THEY LIKED THE MESSAGE**

We see this a lot in the modern church:

"If you say things I like to hear, I'll contribute to your church. But if you preach the truth to me, well then, I need to find a better place to build up my self-esteem"

"How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?"

They wanted to build each other up and **give each other glory** -> they didn't want the truth so as to be saved

The Jews were not that unlike many we know today

We all like to hear that we're good and acceptable but the spiritually mature know better...

Moses, the DA

John 5:45-47

“Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; **the one who accuses you is Moses**, in whom you have set your hope. **For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

What did Moses bring to the Jews?

We're studying it on Wednesday nights -> The Law

The Law accuses the Jews of self-righteousness

Romans 2:17-24

“But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God, and know His will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth...

You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?

You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?

You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery?

You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?

For “THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU”

The Law was sent to prove to the Jews that they could not follow the Law

They are guilty under the Law

It cannot save them.

If Moses was a District Attorney -> all of them would be brought up on charges and found guilty

We should ask ourselves the question: How are we living against the standard Jesus gave us?

Five Witnesses including Jesus, and the Jews would not believe

I pray that we believe and are committed to follow Him daily...

And that God is not blasphemed because of how we live our lives...

Without Jesus in your life, you ARE under the judgment of the Law -> be warned -> He is coming back...

Prayer

Benediction