

# The Book of John - 31d



**Introduction** - We have been examining the Lord's dialogue in **John 5**. In **verses 19-23**, we saw that the Lord claimed equality with God the Father. In **verses 24-29**, we saw that the Lord claimed to have the authority to raise the dead. In this last section, the Lord presents the valid witnesses to His deity.

## **III. He claimed His witnesses to His deity were valid. (Vs. 30-47)**

One of the greatest mysteries in the Bible is the mystery of the God-Man. In the book of John, though **His deity** is emphasized, **His humanity** is also brought forth. **Verse 30** is one of these statements. In **verses 19 and 20**, we saw a statement of equality.

**John 5:19–20** *“Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.”*

But in **verse 30**, we see a **statement of submission** and a personal testimony— of Himself as a witness.

**John 5:30** *“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”*

This was a **statement of a witness** that would be revisited in **John 8 (John 8:14)**. But the truth that is conceded is that His witness of Himself ordinarily would not be admissible alone in **man's legal court**.

**John 5:31** *“31 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.”*

So, what other witnesses would the Lord present? Here are the witnesses presented:

- a. The witness concerning Himself. **vs. 30,31**
- b. The witness of John the Baptist. **vs. 32-35**
- c. The witness of His works. **vs. 36**
- d. The witness of God the Father. **vs. 37-38**
- e. The witness of the Word of God. **vs. 39-47**

There are two facts concerning this:

First, it highlights man's fallen condition, **that man's word, by itself, is untrustworthy**.

Secondly, it shows the love of Christ/God for man. He came to seek and to save that which was lost.

God's love for us is so much that He is willing to 'explain' Himself to His creation. The Lord indicates that there is another who bears witness, which many have credited with meaning the testimony of the Father in **verses 37 and 38**. But that withstanding He presents:

a. The witness of **John the Baptist**.

In **verse 33**, the allusion is to what we find in **John 3:23-28**. **John 5:33** *"33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth."*

This is an amazing commendation for John the Baptist. Will this be the commendation we receive concerning our witness of the Lord? The Lord had many great things to say about John. **John was a consistent, steadfast witness for the Lord**. John had announced that Jesus was the Lamb of God (**1:29, 36**) and the Son of God (**1:34**). Ironically, the word witness is where we get the English word martyr. (μαρτυρία - marturia). John the Baptist was, in fact, martyred for His testimony of truth. (**Matthew 14**)

**Verse 33** tells us that He bore witness to **the truth**. In **verse 34**, we find the reason for this presentation of earthly witnesses.

**John 5:34** *"34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved."*

Remember the Lord Himself did not receive the witness of men (**John 2:24-25**).

**John 2:24-25** states, *"24 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, 25 And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."*

The Lord's testimony of John continues, and He tells us that John was a burning and shining light! (**vs. 35**), but sadly, they only rejoiced in that light for a season.

**John 5:35** *"35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light."*

People who are **stirred in the flesh** and **not in the heart** only stay around for a season. But this was not the end of the Lord's case for His witnesses. *He then presents:*

b. The witness of **His works**.

**John 5:36** *"36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me."*

There are four things to understand about this:

- His works are a greater witness than that of John the Baptist.
- His works are the Father's works.
- His works were given by God the Father.
- His works bear witness that the Father had sent Him.

When John the Baptist himself doubted, you will remember what the Lord told Him.

**Matthew 11:4–6** *“4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do **hear and see**: 5 The blind receive their 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. 6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.”*

The Lord testified in John 17:4 that He completed the works that God gave Him to do, *“4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”*

In **verses 37 and 38**, the Lord makes another striking statement.

**John 5:37–38** *“37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, **hath borne witness of me**. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. 38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.”*

Everything that preceded the Lord's advent was preparatory and pointed toward the Lord's advent.

**Galatians 4:4** states, *“4 But when **the fulness of the time was come**, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”*

The culminating witness of God to man is Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ! Which leads to the final witness, **the witness of the Word of God**. You and I were not born in the 1st century. We were born in the 21st century. We can thank the Lord for the testimony of His Word!

**John 5:39** *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”*

“The word translated “search” here means to “search diligently” or “search anxiously.” It was applied to miners, who search for precious metals - who look anxiously for the “bed” of the ore with an intensity or anxiety proportionate to “their sense” of the value of the metal.” (Albert Barnes)

The idea in this verse is twofold,

The first is the importance of searching diligently the Word of God.

The Scriptures point to the Lord Jesus Christ. They had searched the Scriptures but missed the Person of the Scriptures, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Verse 40** indicates a stubborn refusal by these who had poured through what they had of the Word of God to come to the Lord Jesus Christ.

How tragic to read the Word of God while missing the God of the Word!

How tragic to study this book as nothing more than an academic anomaly.

You see, the Lord tells us, (**vs. 39**)“...*they* [meaning the Scriptures] *are they which testify of the Lord.*”

- People refuse to come to Christ.

**John 5:40–41** “*40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. 41 I receive not honour from men.*”

- People do not love God.

**John 5:42** “*42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.*”

- People accept false Messiahs.

**John 5:43** “*43 I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.*”

- People seek the approval and honor of mere men.

**John 5:44** “*44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?*”

- People do not believe prophecy- do not believe Moses’ writing.

**John 5:45–46** “*45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. 46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.*”

- People do not believe the word of the true Messiah.

**John 5:47** “*47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?*”