

The Gospel of John Pt. 9

John 5:32-47

Big Idea

- John supplies the Testimony of four witnesses as to Who Jesus is.

Exposition – John 5:32-47

- The concept of using witnesses to establish truth is found throughout the Scriptures and is rooted in Deuteronomy 17:6 & 19:15. In this passage Jesus uses witness accounts to affirm His identity: John the Baptist; His works; the Father; and also the OT Scriptures.

- **Jesus Describes John’s Testimony About Jesus, the Christ (V.32-35)**



- (V32-35) – As we’ve seen in previous passages, The Apostle John puts great emphasis on the testimony of John the Baptist. His strict adherence to Judaism in the past gave him great credibility among the readers of this gospel. There are five different places where John the Baptist is recognized as a witness to the deity, life, and ministry of Jesus Christ (John 1:7,15,19,32; 3:26-30).

- Here Jesus quotes John the Baptist. He makes four significant points:

1. His testimony was not from man, but from God, Himself
2. His testimony was meant for the salvation of its hearers
3. Jesus is The Light shining in a dark place (2 Pet. 1:19; John 8:12)
4. People rejoiced in John’s message about Jesus, but only temporarily. Now that Jesus, Himself, had arrived they give little attention.

- **Jesus Describes His Works as a Witness to His Christology (V.36)**



- (V36) – When Jesus refers to His works on Earth they would include His teachings, healings, demon eradication, and all His works of grace, etc. See also John 10:25; 20:30-31

- Although Jesus speaks only briefly about His works as a testament to His Messiahship, He gives three features about those works.

1. Jesus’ testimony is greater than John’s because they tell that Jesus was sent by the Father, Himself
2. The specific works that He does were assigned by the Father
3. The primary purpose of His works was to prove His divine identity

- **Jesus Describes the Father’s Testimony About Jesus, the Christ (V.37-38)**



- (V37-38) -- In order to understand Jesus’ words here we must keep in mind the greater context – Beginning at John 5:18, the Jews were seeking to kill Jesus because of His claims of being the Son of the Father.

- Again, Jesus’ description of the testimony can be divided into three essential elements.

1. God, the Father has testified about Jesus
2. The Jews have not experienced the Father
3. The Jews are not being directed by the Word of God as evidenced by their rejection of Jesus

- **Jesus Describes the Scriptures' Testimony About the Jesus, the Prophet to Come (V.39-47)**



- (V39-40) – By His use of the word “search” Jesus tells that the Jews worked diligently to find eternal life in the Scriptures. However, what they missed in spite of their diligence, was that the Scriptures were testifying that eternal life is found in Jesus. The Scriptures themselves do not give eternal life, they testify about the One who does.
 - MacArthur says, “They searched for eternal life, but were not willing to trust its only source. (John 5:24; 1:11; 3:19)
- (V41-42) – In these verses Jesus contrasts the will of men and the will of God. Jesus was totally consumed with doing the will of God, therefore received no glory from men. Had Jesus agreed to be the type of Messiah that the Jews wanted then they would have praised Him. They desired the gift more than the Giver.
 - Jesus could say the Jews did not have the love of God in themselves because their hearts wanted something different than what God gave them.
- (V43-44) – Following the earthly ministry of Jesus there was a number of men who falsely claimed to be the Messiah. Jesus exposes the thing in the human heart that causes rejection of the true Messiah of God yet embraces those that come in his own name.
 - Our hearts have a propensity for looking to self rather than to God, to look inward rather than outward.
- (V45-47) – In the last verses of the chapter Jesus really gets to the point of the witness of the Scriptures about the Messiah.
 - He has already established that the Jews looked to the Scriptures themselves for salvation, rather than allowing them to point them to the Messiah that brings salvation.
 - By mentioning Moses Jesus is speaking language that the Jews should easily understand. He points of their error then He illuminates the object of the teaching of one of their heroes, Moses. In establishing Moses as one of their heroes now He can point to what Moses taught. The idea is that Jesus would use Moses' credibility with the Jews. Moses proclaimed Jesus and the Jews should follow Moses' teaching (Compare Deuteronomy 18:15 to John 1:21; 4:19; 6:14; 7:40, 52)