

## The Identity of the Son of God: Witnesses to the Son

John 5:30-47

September 11, 2022

### 1. The Witness of Jesus (30-32)

- a. Jesus' witness is dependent on the will of the Father – "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" (30).
  - i. Jesus' ministry was wholly dependent on the Father.
  - ii. Jesus' will was wholly submitted to the will of His Father.
- b. Jesus' witness is insufficient by itself – "If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true" (31).
  - i. Jesus is the embodiment of truth (cf. 14:6), but His witness alone is not sufficient.
  - ii. Jesus' witness is completely rooted in the Father and empowered by the Spirit.
- c. Jesus' witness along with the witness of the Father is sufficient – "There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true" (32).
  - i. This verse transitions into the remaining witnesses to Jesus as the Son of God.
  - ii. The following witnesses demonstrate the triune God's witness to Jesus as the Son of God.

### 2. The Witness of John the Baptist (33-35)

- a. John the Baptist was sent to bear witness to the truth of Jesus' identity – "Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth" (33).
  - i. The Jews recognized that John was a witness sent from God (cf. 1:6), and they sent an envoy to question him (cf. 1:19-27).
  - ii. John bore witness to the truth of Jesus' identity.
    1. He announced that Jesus is "the Lamb of God" (cf. 1:29).
    2. He announced that Jesus is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit (cf. 1:33).
    3. He announced that Jesus is the Son of God (cf. 1:34).
- b. John the Baptist's witness was given so that we would be saved – "But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved" (34).
  - i. Jesus didn't need John's witness, but we did.
  - ii. John was the voice crying in the wilderness, so that we would hear, believe, and be saved.
- c. John the Baptist was a lamp – "He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light" (35).
  - i. John's witness had served for a time.
  - ii. The Jews initially rejoiced in John's witness but unfortunately refused to embrace the True Light.

### 3. The Witness of the Works of Jesus (36)

- a. Jesus' works are a greater witness than John's – "But I have greater witness than that of John" (36a).
- b. Jesus' works are actually the works of the Father, given to Jesus to complete – "for the works which the Father hath given me to finish" (36b).
- c. Jesus' works bear witness that the Father has sent Him – "the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me" (36c).
  - i. Just as the Father has the power to give life, so does the Son (cf. 5:21, 26).
  - ii. Just as the Father has the power to create, so does the Son (cf. 1:1-3).

### 4. The Witness of the Father (37-38)

- a. The Father has borne witness to Jesus and continues to bear witness to Jesus – "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" (37).
  - i. All of creation bears witness to Jesus (Psalm 19).
  - ii. Tragically, humanity is guilty of not receiving that ongoing witness.
- b. The Jews had God's word, yet they did not believe it – "And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not" (38).
  - i. God had never deserted His people, but they had deserted Him (Joshua 1:8-9).
  - ii. The Jews had memorized much of God's Word, but they failed to understand and believe it (Psalm 119:11).
  - iii. As a result of their unbelief, they did not believe on Son of God, sent by the God that they supposedly worshipped.
  - iv. If you refuse to believe in the Son, God's Word does not benefit you.

5. The Witness of Scripture (39-40)
  - a. Jesus is the central theme of Scripture – “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (39).
    - i. Jesus rebukes the Jews for not recognizing Him as the centerpiece of the Scriptures.
    - ii. They thought that the Scriptures were the source of eternal life, and yet the Scriptures pointed to the Source of Life, the Son of God.
  - b. If you do not come to Jesus in simple faith, you cannot have eternal life – “And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life” (40).
    - i. Rather than be humbled by their study of the Scriptures, the Jews became proud and self-sufficient.
    - ii. In refusing to humble themselves at Jesus’ feet, they refused eternal life.
  
6. The Insufficiency of Human Recognition (41-47)
  - a. Mankind refuses to honor Jesus – “I receive not honour from men” (41).
    - i. Mankind dishonors His name by taking it in vain.
    - ii. Mankind dishonors His work on the cross by diminishing it with their own works.
    - iii. Mankind dishonors His person by refusing to believe on Him.
  - b. Mankind does not love God as they profess to do – “But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. 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” (42-43).
    - i. The proof that mankind does not love God is that they refused to receive Jesus.
      1. God loves mankind with an immeasurable love (cf. 3:16).
      2. Tragically, in spurning Jesus, mankind spurns God’s love.
    - ii. To love Jesus is to love God; to reject Jesus is to reject God.
    - iii. Mankind receives men who come in their own name, but they reject Jesus who comes in the Father’s name.
  - c. Mankind seeks honor from one another rather than seeking honor from God – “How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?” (44)
    - i. Rather than embrace God, humanity has embraced themselves.
    - ii. Mankind is in love with self, and for that reason they reject Jesus; Jesus exposes their idolatry of self.
  - d. Mankind thinks that they have safety in the Law, but the Law exposes them (45-47).
    - i. Jesus is the Judge, and Moses is the accuser.
    - ii. Placing your faith in the Law is ultimately placing your faith in your ability to keep it.
    - iii. The purpose of the Law of Moses was to expose man’s need for the Lamb of God.
    - iv. Those who refuse to heed the message of Moses, refuse to heed the message of Christ.

Conclusion:

1. Are you following Jesus’ example by submitting your will to the Father’s will?
2. Have you listened to the messengers that God has sent you who have urged you to trust Jesus as your Savior?
3. Are you giving honor to Jesus as the Son of God by admitting your inability to please God and trusting Jesus to be your only hope of forgiveness and eternal life?