

God With Us

A Study of John's Gospel: "The Witnesses for Jesus"

John 5:30-46

"I can do nothing on My own. As I hear, I judge, and My judgement is just, because I seek not My own will but the will of Him who sent Me."-John 5:30

I. Four-fold Witness

- a. The word *witness* is a key word in John's Gospel, it was used 47 times. The O.T. Law required 2 or 3 witnesses (Num 35:30; Deut 17:6). These four witnesses prove His Sonship:
- b. **John the Baptist** (vv.32-34): He was the forerunner for Jesus. John told the people that Jesus was the Lord, the Lamb of God and the Son of God (John 1:23, 29, 34, 36).
- c. **His Works/Miracles** (v.36): Jesus' *works were the works of the Father*. God gave Jesus a specific ministry to finish while He was here on earth. Jesus did not perform ordinary works.
- d. **The Father** (v. 37-38) This *Father as witness* for Jesus was difficult for the Jews who denied Him.
 1. Human beings do not generally have direct contact with God through the physical senses of hearing and seeing. The Rabbis relied on tradition and could/would not recognize Jesus.
 2. Their problem was that His word was not abiding (*menein*, "dwelling") in them.
- e. **The Word** (vv.37-46) The rabbis spent their time "diligently studying the Scriptures." Unfortunately, the truth they were seeking could only be found in Jesus, who gives eternal life.
- f. Many people read the Bible but never find Jesus, because they do not seek Him with their hearts. (Jeremiah 29:13)

II. Why did the Jewish Leaders Deny the Witnesses?

- a. Many Jews believed that Moses still interceded for the people in heaven. (Heb 3:1-6)
- b. The Jewish scribes searched to know God's Word, without seeking to know the God of the Word.
- c. *Moses wrote of Jesus* (v.46). Also read Deut. 18:15-20.
- d. They missed the spiritual truths that the text contained. They lacked love in their hearts.
- e. Their attitude toward the *Witnesses*, hindered their faith from seeking Jesus for who He is.

III. Lessons to be Learned

- a. If we reject what is true, we will ultimately receive what is false.
- b. Human beings need two things: we need to hear from God and we need to go to God.
- c. We need revelation *from* Him and reconciliation *with* Him, both must be received in the heart.
- d. Jesus is the only answer to the two great needs that we have.
- e. The hope of a heavenly calling does not hang on our righteousness, but our hope and confidence hang on Jesus. (Look at Heb 3:1-2) *consider Jesus*.
- f. There are saved sinners of every kind in this room —sexual sinners, lying sinners, stealing sinners, and parent-disobeying sinners. By the grace of God we believed.
- g. Why don't people believe? The same reasons that hindered the Rabbis hinder people today.
 1. Moral character has a great effect on faith (pride and position).
 2. A firm belief that personal goodness will save them.
 3. All religious practices (church, worship) is just something that "people do" in culture.
 4. The reality of harassing sin (stronghold) that they cannot give up.
 5. The service to Jesus is too hard. "Other Christians and the church will want too much for me."
 6. They love "stuff" (mammon) too much.
 7. Fear of rejection (family, coworkers, and the "in-crowd")
- h. The Lord calls us to be His witnesses to the fact that we overcame these hindrances to be called Christians. And we are still overcoming them to this day.