

“LET THE NEXT WITNESS STEP FORWARD”

John 5:30-47

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INTRODUCTION

Now in verses 31-47 we have an amazing passage. Imagine that you are in a courtroom where someone who has been accused of a crime brings forth numerous “witnesses” who defend his innocence. So Jesus does here. *He had been accused of violating the Sabbath laws, and of blaspheming by claiming to be equal with God the Father.* Here He presents **five witnesses** who verify that His claims are absolute truth.

But, before we look at those five witnesses, let us determine why Jesus presents these witnesses. Whom is He trying to convince? It would certainly be accurate to state that this material is here in John’s Gospel to comfort and assure all true believers, and to give us ammunition to use in presenting the Lord’s claims to those to whom we witness. In this way, all true believers can have confidence and assurance in their wonderful Lord.

However, we **MUST** remember the original circumstances when Jesus spoke these words. We were not there! Neither were most other believers! Jesus spoke these words to His **arch-enemies**, the Pharisees and Sadducees etc. In light of that can we not stand in amazement at Jesus’ words in vv. 34 and 40? In verse 34 Jesus says, **“I SAY THESE THINGS IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY BE SAVED.”** Then in verse 40 Jesus says, **“YOU ARE UNWILLING TO COME TO ME IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE.”**

Was Jesus reaching out even to these enemies of the Gospel? I submit to you, that if Jesus could take His gospel invitation even to the Pharisees and Sadducees, that **WE MUST TAKE THE GOSPEL TO THE WORST OF SINNERS AND TO THE MOST HATEFUL OF OUR OPPONENTS!** Is there really anyone to whom we should not give an opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel? Remember that “God so loved the world.”

Now, let us look at these **five witnesses** to our Lord Jesus Christ.

I. THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF ONLY HIS _____ WITNESS (31)

Of course, this whole concept of the lack of validity of a single witness is based on ideas found in the Scriptures: **See Deut. 19:15** etc. But “true” here can’t be limited to “legally valid”; it means “true” in its full sense. If He alone bears witness, His witness has to be false—He would then be united to “the Lie”!

II. THE FIVE WITNESSES TO THE SON’S TESTIMONY (32-47)

A. The _____ (32, 37)

1. The Father continually bears witness.
2. Those who reject the testimony of Scripture don’t receive Jesus;
Haven’t heard the Father’s voice “with the ear of the heart”—thus don’t hear God’s voice in Jesus’ teachings. They are no Moses—Ex. 33:11.

Haven’t seen the Father’s form there in Scripture “with the eye of the

heart”—thus they don’t see God in Jesus’ deeds. They are no Jacob (Gen. 32)—no true Israelite.

B. The _____ (33, 35)

1. These leaders had sent a delegation to John.
2. His abiding testimony to the truth in Jesus gave them an opportunity to believe.
3. Though John’s earthly testimony has now ceased, he was a “lamp” that was “burning and shining” for God and His Messiah.
4. The Jewish leaders were fickle—“for a time”—and frivolous—“rejoiced” with light-hearted merrymaking, not seriousness of purpose. Ignored calls to repentance from sin; happy to have a prophet!
5. Jesus cares not for nor desires _____ testimony—even from John! (34)
Yet, it is true and they could have been saved through it! Some of the 12 were!

C. Jesus’ _____ (36)

These works are not just *miracles*, they are especially His *giving life* and *judging*.

D. The Sacred _____ (38-39)

1. They **search** the Scriptures
 - a. They adhere to the details of the *letter*.
 - b. They hope to obtain eternal life by Scholarly study
2. The Scriptures testify of Christ—Jesus is the Christ.
Jesus found throughout the BIBLE!
3. They do not truly believe the Scriptures—since they don’t believe in the One whom God the Father has sent.
4. Thus, they do not truly have God’s word abiding in them.

E. _____ (45-47) [Also a part of Scripture]

1. Moses is their legal accuser—not the Son
2. Their entire **hope** rests in Moses and their adherence to him!
They have “set” their hope in Moses.
3. Moses is no refuge, for he **wrote of Jesus!**
4. If they had truly believed Moses, they would believe Jesus.
5. Since they don’t believe Moses’ writings, they cannot believe Jesus’ words.

Note that here Jesus clearly settles the authorship of the Pentateuch! All the liberal authors to the contrary!!

If you don’t believe the OT Scriptures, you cannot truly be a follower of Jesus.

III. THE REASON PEOPLE REJECT THE SON’S TESTIMONY (40-44)

A. They do not seek the “glory” _____ (44)

The ONE and ONLY God!

- B. They receive glory from _____—and especially from “one another.” (vv. 44, 41)
They had a mutual admiration society—trying to impress one another with their unbelieving academic prowess!
- C. Therefore, they do not have the _____ of God in themselves (v. 42)
This refers to their **love for God**.
- D. Therefore, they do not receive Jesus (43)—they don’t “_____” Him (44)
**There were at least 64 counterfeit Messiahs in Judaism in the early Christian era. Many of them attracted numerous followers.
One day Antichrist will come, and they will follow him!**
- E. They are _____ to come to Him that they may have life. (40)

CONCLUSION

The testimony is clear. There are many witnesses to Christ.

Have you believed? Have you Received Him? DO you have the love of God within?
Have you come to Him for Life? He is the only life!

Do you share His testimony with others?
We also must take the gospel *to the worst of sinners*.