



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

The Gospel of John Sermon Series
Supports Session 7: Pick Up Your Mat
Sermon Title: "Can I Get A Witness?" (John 5:31-46)

Connection to Session 7

Session 7 delves into Jesus healing a man on the Sabbath. After that healing, the "Jews began persecuting Jesus because he was doing these things on the Sabbath" (5:16). As opposition to Jesus continues to rise, Jesus pointed to the witnesses who confirmed His identity.

Introduction/Opening

Could you imagine what it would be like to have some man from the countryside standing in front of you and telling you that your whole life you have been reading the Scriptures wrongly? This man is telling you that you have no idea what the Bible is about. This is the situation the Jewish leaders find themselves in here in John 5:31-46. Jesus was telling them that they had missed out on His true identity. As the Jewish leaders argued with Jesus over whether it is right to heal on the Sabbath, He told them they do not truly know who He is. Jesus tells them that they have missed the witnesses who testify to who He is. As the Jewish religious leaders try to put Jesus on trial, He flips the trial on them and shows them how they are guilty of missing four witnesses who bear testimony to His identity.

Outline

1. The First Witness: John the Baptist (5:32-35)
 - a) The first witness to Jesus's identity was John the Baptist. God the Father sent John the Baptist to testify to who Jesus was. For a while they rejoiced at John's message, but they ended up rejecting John's testimony.
 - b) How might we be in danger of following the same path of those who initially accepted John's witness and then rejected it?
2. The Second Witness: The Works Jesus Has Been Given (5:36)
 - a) The second witness to Jesus's identity were the works of the Father that Jesus did. These works include Jesus's signs that He was doing to reveal His identity. Jesus healed and taught people, however, they rejected this witness. Jesus has been given this power by God.
3. The Third Witness: The Father (5:37-38)
 - a) Not only had the Father given Jesus works to accomplish, but the Father Himself testified. Jesus says they had "not heard his voice at any time" (v. 37). This could either be referring to the voice of God at Jesus's baptism or to Scripture. Also, they did not

“have his word residing in you” (v. 38). These statements would have been insulting to the Jewish leaders.

4. The Fourth Witness: The Scriptures (5:39-46)

a) Jesus agreed with the religious leaders that the Old Testament points them to eternal life, however, that life is found in Him. By rejecting Jesus as their Savior, they were also rejecting the revelation of the Scriptures.

b) The Jewish leaders thought their study of the Scriptures would bring them life. However, they missed the true content and intent of the Scriptures: Jesus Christ. Are we reading and studying the Scriptures rightly? Are we missing Jesus in His Word?

Conclusion

Bible is not primarily about us, but about Christ. We must not miss the life-transforming gospel that is made clear in the Scriptures. Seek to see how all the Bible testifies about Christ.

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