

**The Word Became Flesh
(Week 15)
John 5:30-47
“...But I Know You”**

Introduction

For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth (Isa. 53:9), when He was insulted. He did not insult in return: when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted Himself to the One Who judges justly. **1 Peter 2:21-23**

Christ was sinless. We know this for a fact because *The Bible* tells us so. And part of being without sin is being completely free of deceit. When the disciple Peter described The LORD Jesus, he said that there was not “deceit” (or guile) in His mouth. This simply means that Jesus was completely truthful in all of His dealings with those around Him. He never once lied, when asked a question, and He never once told the people what they wanted to hear, rather than the absolute truth. If someone wants to find real truth, they need look no further than Jesus.

“...I AM the way, the TRUTH and the life. No one comes to The Father except through Me.” **John 14:6** (emphasis added)

When the Pharisees confronted Jesus that fateful day in the temple for breaking their Sabbath traditions, they got a lot more than they bargained for. They received an overwhelming barrage of truth. Quite frankly, it left them both speechless and infuriated. Men want to be flattered, not corrected. Just think of our own present day and time. When is the last time that you heard a politician admit to a mistake? Why is this, we wonder? Because pride is the father of all sin, and it causes us to have the desire to be told that we are right, even when we are not. Pride tells us that we are doing just fine. When in reality, we are desperately wicked.

“For you say, ‘I’m rich; I have become wealthy and need nothing,’ and you don’t realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.” **Revelation 3:17**

This was exactly the condition of those religious zealots that confronted Jesus after He healed the crippled man on the Sabbath. They thought that they were so very spiritual, but Jesus said to them, “I KNOW you.” He exposed the darkness of their hearts to the light of day. And rather than being repentant toward heaven, they despised Him for it. This is still true of sinners today. When they are exposed to the truth about their sin, they despise the messenger, rather than repent and find grace. In short, the gospel isn’t always received as “good news” to them. Many would rather be told that they are good just the way they are, rather than hear the truth. But it is the truth that sets men free (**John 8:31**). It really comes down to this simple choice: We can either deceive ourselves, believing that we are just fine the way that we are, or we can be honest with ourselves and humbly accept what God’s Word says about us. It is a choice between life and death. And according to The Word of God, only a very few will choose correctly.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.” **Matthew 7:13-14**

And why is this? Because of pride. Jesus gave those religious leaders an opportunity to find life that day in the temple. He made a very compelling argument as to His true nature, but the argument was rejected.

He concluded His remarks to them, by calling upon witnesses to His deity; witnesses that they should have accepted. But in order to accept the truth, they would need to acknowledge their own wickedness, and that was not an acceptable option for them. So they listened to His argument, and rather than believe in Him, they reacted in anger. They chose to ignore the **Witness** of John The Baptist, The miraculous **Works** of Jesus, and the very **Word** of God.

The Witness (vs. 30-35)

"I can do nothing on My own. I judge only as I hear, and My judgement is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him Who sent Me. If I testify about Myself, My testimony is not true. There is another Who testifies about Me, and I know that the testimony He gives about Me is true. You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. I don't receive human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. John was a burning lamp and a shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light." **John 5:30-35**

The word "witness" (*Martyreo* in the Greek) is one of the most important words used in John's gospel. It is used nearly 50 times. The book is a series of "witnesses" called to give their own personal testimony regarding Jesus. As Jesus responds to the Pharisee's charge against Him, He calls His own "witnesses" to the stand as it were. Witnesses that the religious leaders should have heeded, were it not for their own spiritual blindness.

It is important to note here, that when Jesus begins this calling of witnesses, He mentions one that is superior to all the rest. This superior witness is His own Father. And He will circle back to Him in the end, but make no mistake **vs. 30-32** are speaking directly about God The Father. We know this, because of the Greek word that He used to describe this first witness. "*Allos*" in the Greek (translated "*another*") actually means "*another of the same kind*". Jesus was saying that this first witness was exactly the same as Himself. Once again making the claim that He and The Father are equal. But since these religious zealots did not know Him, Jesus went on to speak of a witness whom they had met in person, John The Baptist.

According to The Law of Moses, a testimony is only valid, if it is confirmed by two or more witnesses (***Deuteronomy 19:15***). This is why Jesus begins by saying that His own testimony about Himself is not valid. It is not because He has no authority to testify on His own behalf, since He Himself is Almighty God. But what He is saying is that it is not simply His testimony that confirms His identity, but there are many other credible witnesses as well. Then He lists three separate accounts of witnesses to His deity. And He begins with the witness of John the Baptist.

When John The Baptist first came upon the scene, he was well received by the people. The reason for his great acclaim was not only his incredible preaching, but his message that the long awaited Messiah was coming. Huge crowds flocked to hear his message of The Anointed One Who had come into the world to save His people. Even the Pharisees were excited to hear his message at first. That is, until they heard John's call for them to repent and be baptized. In their way of thinking, the Messiah would come and give them all a pat on the back for being so righteous. John's message of baptism and repentance was therefore offensive to them. That is why we see them sending a delegation to question him in ***John Chapter 1***.

Jesus reminded the Pharisees of the delegation that they had sent. These men had heard for themselves John's testimony regarding the Lamb of God. But they had refused to believe. So, as Jesus reminded them, they had stood in the very light of this testimony and had rejected it. The witness of John The Baptist had gone unheeded. And why? Because of their own pride and unwillingness to believe and repent. Jesus told the Pharisees, that even though He doesn't need or accept the testimony of mortal men to offer proof of His deity, He reminded them of John the Baptizer's witness so that they might at the very least believe him and find salvation. But of course, it was to no avail. John had come and gone, and these religious zealots were still in their sins.

The Works (vs. 36)

“But I have a greater testimony than John’s because of the works that The Father has given Me to accomplish. These very works I am doing testify about Me that The Father has sent Me.” **John 5:36**

The second “witness” that Jesus called to the stand was the witness of His miraculous works. Anyone with any kind of sense should have realized that He would not have been able to perform the many wonders that he was doing, unless He had been sent from God. I imagine that if Nicodemus was there that day, he would have been shaking his head in agreement. For He had already acknowledged this fact.

“...Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher Who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs You do unless God were with Him.” **John 3:2b**

And remember, it was one of those miracles that had caused this whole confrontation in the first place! Jesus had healed a cripple of nearly forty years on the Sabbath day, and all these men could see was that He had broken one of their man-made rules. How spiritually blind can a person be? And by the way, just because John doesn’t mention many of the miraculous works of Jesus in this gospel, make no mistake, by the time of this confrontation in the temple, Jesus had done many mighty works. In fact, people came from miles around to see this great miracle worker from Galilee. His fame had already spread far and wide by this time. No one could dispute the amazing things that He did wherever He went, and yet this testimony was not credible enough for the Pharisees to believe. It is really difficult to conceive of such arrogant rejection of truth.

If you think about it, people reject the miraculous work of Christ every day. How many times have you seen The Savior perform a miraculous change in the heart of a sinner? They become a different person immediately, and what does the world say about it? They make fun and scoff at the notion that it is a true work of God. But just as those whom Jesus healed physically were able to see, hear, and walk, those whom He has healed spiritually can certainly testify to the reality of His amazing grace. Old things have passed away, and all things become new. Can I get a witness? Our God is still in the miracle business, my friends. Believe it!

The Word (vs. 37- 47)

“The Father Who sent Me has Himself testified about Me. You have not heard His voice at any time, and you haven’t seen His form. You don’t have His Word residing in you, because you don’t believe the One He sent. You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about Me. But you are not willing to come to Me so that you may have life. I do not accept glory from people, but I know you — that you have no love for God within you. I have come in My Father’s Name, and yet you don’t accept Me. If someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe, since you accept glory from one another but don’t seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to The Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, because He wrote about Me. But if you don’t believe what he wrote, how will you believe My words?” **John 5:37-47**

The Final, and the most condemning, witness that Jesus called to refute the Pharisees is The Living Word of God. I imagine they must have been furious, when He told them that they neither knew God’s voice, nor had ever seen God at any time. These self-righteous men truly believed that they were in such good standing with God, that surely when The Messiah finally came, He would certainly commend them for their good works. It was inconceivable to them that He would have anything but praise for their

faithful piety toward God. And here was Jesus telling them that they didn't know God at all, nor did they have His love within them!

You see, there are many very religious people out there, who have no relationship with God at all. This is how religious zealots can become so misguided that they strap on suicide bombs in order to "eradicate the infidels". They may know about God, but they certainly have no genuine knowledge of Him or His ways. The Pharisees had even less excuse than all other religious zealots, because they had the true Word of God. They studied it fervently, but had completely missed its message.

The Bible, my friends, is the story of Jesus Christ from cover to cover. He is the seed of the woman, who crushes the head of the serpent in **Genesis Chapter Three**. He is the passover lamb in Exodus. And He is both spoken of by the prophets, and pictured in the many types and shadows of *The Old Testament*. Jesus called The Word of God as witness to His deity. The Pharisees had dismissed John's testimony, and attempted to explain away the miracles of Jesus, but surely they could not deny The Word of God. But that is exactly what they would do.

We should not be surprised at all by this. People are constantly discounting what *The Bible* says, when its message doesn't suit them. I recently watched a recording of Oprah Winfrey in which she claimed to be a "Christian", but she denied most of *The Bible's* teaching. Let me make one thing perfectly clear this morning. To deny the Word of God is to deny The God of The Word! If parts of *The Bible* aren't accurate, then none of it is accurate. End of story. God doesn't change with the changing times. His Word endures forever.

The grass withers, the flowers fade, but The Word of our God remains forever.

Isaiah 40:8

It is in The Word, that God Himself testifies about His Son. The Pharisees put great stock in The Law of Moses. And as a final warning to them, Jesus said that it would be Moses, who would stand and accuse them on their day of judgment. For Moses, inspired by The Holy Spirit, had much to say about the coming Christ. But the Pharisees did not want to believe it. They wanted a Messiah that would honor them, not one Who would bring with Him the righteousness of God and a call to repentance.

Jesus told His accusers that they would be quick to believe in a false messiah, who promoted himself so long as he flattered them as well (**vs. 43**). It is interesting to note that after Jesus' death on the cross, many would come and proclaim themselves to be the Messiah, and some of those false leaders managed to persuade many to follow them. The Son of God was rejected by His own, but these false prophets were critically acclaimed. It will be the same in the last days, when the antichrist rises to power. He will come in his own name, boasting great things and declaring himself to be god. And the masses will believe in him. What a sad commentary on the heart of mankind.

Jesus left the Pharisees that day in a smoldering rage of unbelief. They would be willing to do everything in their power to have him killed. Little did they know, that the death which they were plotting for Him would actually become the vehicle by which many they considered as inferior would come to everlasting life. God is in control. And His plans can never be thwarted.

The LORD of Armies has planned it; therefore, who can stand in His way? It is His had that is outstretched, so who can turn it back?

Isaiah 14:27

The Pharisees remained in their unbelief that day, even as Jesus offered three indisputable witnesses as to His divine nature. They rejected them all: The witness of John, The witness of Christ's wonders, and even The Father's witness given in the Word of God. If these things cannot convince someone to believe in the Name of The LORD Jesus, then nothing will. So, hear the witness testimony of John's gospel. Hear and believe... and have everlasting life.

And let the Believers all say... **TRUTH!!!**