

THE FATHER'S WITNESS OF JESUS
(John 5:31-47)

The Jews hauled Jesus into court for questioning. And they asked him about healing on the Sabbath day. And in the course of answering their questions Jesus further infuriated them by claiming equality with God. Jesus told them, "Here is why I work on the Sabbath, because God is allowed to work on the Sabbath!

And then he went on to say that everything he does is the will of the Father. "If you see me do it, then it is the Father's will." (John 5:19) And he called God, "My Father." (John 5:17) And he said, "The Father loveth the Son." (John 5:20) Furthermore, the Son gives men spiritual life (John 5:24, 25) and he raises the dead from the graves. (John 5:28, 29) And the Son will judge the righteous and the wicked. (John 5:27)

These are tall claims. Jesus is claiming nothing less than absolute deity. He is not hiding from the fact. He is not afraid of the Jews. He is telling them bluntly. And he is telling with great authority. I am God. I am the life giver and the judge of all men.

Now, this is loud and blatant blasphemy if all of this is not true. If Jesus is lying, then he is worthy of death. And the Jews are ready to stone him. But while they are casting their eyes about looking for stones, Jesus goes on with his discourse. And now he will bring his witnesses to the stand.

Jesus will now bring corroborative evidence. He has taken the stand and declared that he is God. But the Jews require more than just his word. After all, any man can say he is God. Talk is cheap. And so in the next few verses, Jesus will bring corroborative evidence that he is in fact God.

Now Jesus acknowledged that in the courts of man, supporting evidence is needed.

If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.

Now of course, whatever Jesus says is true. But what he means here is that if his own testimony about himself were all he had, then it would not be decisive evidence. If the only evidence they had was that Jesus said, "I am God," it would not be enough to convince these unbelieving Jews. And the Pharisees said as much a little later.

The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; they record is not true.
John 8:13

The fact of the matter is that everything that Jesus says is true. He cannot lie and he cannot be mistaken. Therefore, if it comes out of his mouth, it is true. But is it enough to convince unbelievers? No. They require corroborative evidence. His words must be proven by the weight of the evidence not by his own credibility.

So, when we return to our text, Jesus is going to bolster his own testimony with other evidence. And this evidence will give added weight to his own testimony.

Now Jesus declares first of all that his primary witness will be God the Father. This of course will be the best witness. All other witnesses will be insignificant compared to the witness of the Father. So, Jesus says,

There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.

John 5:32

The Father has borne witness to his Son in several ways and Jesus says the witness of the Father is indisputably true.

I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.

Now we will take a look at the witness of the Father in a moment. But Jesus first tells these Jews that they have already had a human witness.

Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

John 5:33

This is a reference to the Jewish delegation which was sent out to question John the Baptist in John 1:19-28. And John told them that he was not the Christ but that the Christ was coming. And later John pointed at Christ and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God."

Now these unbelieving Jews previously sent a delegation out to question John. And they already had his testimony. John pointed at Jesus and told them that this was the One.

Witness Number One – John the Baptist (John 5:33-35)

Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

Witness Number Two – the Works of Jesus (John 5:36)

Witness Number Three – The Father Himself (John 5:37, 38)

Witness Number Four – The Scriptures (John 5:39)