

**FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE**

- 1.) It's very clear in John chapter 5, the Jewish authorities understand exactly who Jesus is claiming to be; but they didn't believe it because they were blind to the activities of God all around them.
- 2.) There is something wrong *w/the hearts* of these people: They not only did not see Christ in their own **SCRIPTURES**- but would not. They're **RELIGIOUS**, but *not* saved.
- 3.) In vs 31 Jesus is not implying His self-witness is **UNRELIABLE**. He said it is "*not valid*" because under Jewish law the self-testimony of any man was not **ACCEPTED** in court.
- 4.) The real issue is whether His opponents would **RECEIVE** His claim. In vs 33-40 He calls **FOUR** witnesses to support His claim.
- 5.) 1<sup>st</sup> Witness is **JOHN THE BAPTIST**; The Jewish leaders had interrogated him carefully and he clearly declared who Jesus is-  
Jesus is Lord Jn 1:23 Lamb of God Jn 1:29 Son of God Jn 1:34
- 6.) vs 33 John had previously **IDENTIFIED** Jesus as the Messiah so clearly and powerfully that his own disciples began following Jesus.
- 7.) vs 34 Is another "Brush Stroke" on the canvas in that it reminds us that GOD is not dependent on human testimony to bring Him **VALIDATION**.
- 8.) 2<sup>nd</sup> Witness is of **MIRACLES** - John/seven "signs" as proof:
  1. The turning of water into wine (2:1-11)
  2. The healing of the official's son (4:43-54)
  3. The healing of a paralytic (5:1-15)
  4. The feeding of the multitude (6:1-14)
  5. The walking on the water (6:16-21)
  6. The cure of the blind man (9:1-41)
  7. The raising of Lazarus (11:1-44)
- 9.) 3<sup>rd</sup> Witness is of **GOD THE FATHER**- No one can see God. However, throughout history, God interacted with people. Two specific instances in which the Father gave verbal testimony to the Son: 1.) at His baptism 2.) at His transfiguration.

10.) 4<sup>th</sup> Witness is of the **WORD OF GOD**. The ancient Jews highly revered the written Word, particularly the Law given through Moses. The O.T. bears witness to Jesus as the Christ, yet the people who preserved that Word were blind to their own Messiah.

11.) Vs 39 Reminds us it's one thing to have the Word in our heads, but quite another thing to have it in our hearts. It's clear you can know the Bible and not be saved. Head knowledge is not an exchange for heart knowledge.

12.) vs 45 Jesus' opponents **IGNORED** the clear evidence from the Old Testament that He is the Messiah. But, they also misunderstood the purpose of the Mosaic Law and Old Testament Prophecies. Jesus **SHOCKED** them when He identified their accuser as Moses.

**GREEK WORDS USED TODAY**

**Martyreo** (mar-too-reh'-o) (martus); to *be a witness, testify*:- give [evidence], bear record, good (honest) report, be well reported of, give (have) testimony  
**Lambano** (lam-ban'-o) to *take* (in); [accept]  
**Sozo** sode'-zo ("safe"); to *save, deliver or protect*:- heal, preserve, be (make) whole

**FOR THE WEEK AHEAD**

The ultimate rejection of Jesus was the eventual execution: The people we learned about today rejected the fourfold testimony of John the Baptist, Jesus' "Works", the Father, and the Scriptures. As a result, they crucify the Messiah.

If we reject that which is true, ultimately that which is false will be received. It is clear in scripture; there is *NO middle ground with God*.  
*"He who is not with Me is against Me; Matthew 12:30"*

When did Jesus become real to you?