

The Gospel of John: On Whose Testimony

John 5:31-47

Testimony as Evidence (v. 31-35)

- Jesus continues His argument stating the evidence for His authority to heal is based on His identity as the Son of God (v. 25)
- This claim is not based on His own testimony
 - No one can simply state something to be true without evidence
- It must be based on the evidence of another who is trustworthy
- He points to John the Baptizer, whom the Jewish leadership has sought out repeatedly (1:19ff; 3:25ff), as a human witness of who Jesus is
 - But Jesus claims that because of the magnitude of the claim that He is making, human testimony isn't enough
- A greater witness is needed

A Weightier Testimony (v. 36-40)

- Jesus' Father provides a greater testimony
 - Jesus' works that act as evidence of His identity & authority as the one sent by the Father
 - This includes the signs He performs
 - And will culminate on the Cross
 - The Scriptures also testify to who Jesus is
- The Jewish leadership doesn't have an intimate relationship with God, so they don't recognize His works on display in Jesus
 - Instead, they put their hope in their human understanding of the Scriptures
- Studying the Scriptures is not inherently life-giving unless one understands their true purpose
 - Which is to point us to Jesus, the Giver of Life.

Misplaced Hope (v. 41-47)

- The religious leaders want men's praise and do not seek God's pleasure
- Jesus is not looking for human accolades
 - He desires to please His Father
- They have put their hope of righteousness in their understanding of & obedience to the Law of Moses
 - And fail to realize that Moses was pointing them to Jesus (Dt 18:15)
 - To not trust in Jesus is to disobey what Moses taught
 - The entire Old Testament points to Jesus (1 Pet 1:10-12)

So What?

- Do we trust God's testimony about who Jesus is?
- Is our hope in Christ alone?
- Are we bearing witness to Jesus with our words & deeds?

Meditation Verse: John 5:39

Next Week's Scripture: John 6:1-15