

John 5:30-46

³⁰ "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

30 Verse 19 tells us Jesus only does what the Father is doing and only judges as according to the Father's will, though judgment is given to Jesus. A key to the Christian life is surrendering our will to the Father. God desires for us to be sanctified (set apart for godliness) which is every thought and action submitted to the Spirit of God (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

³¹ If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not deemed true.

31 Anyone can make any claim about themselves. Jewish courts didn't accept personal testimony. Two witnesses had to confirm a claim (Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15).

³² There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. ³³ You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴ Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved.

32-34 Jesus didn't need human witness, for He had the witness of the Father and the Spirit and His deeds. He is giving his listeners the only testimony they would accept for their salvation. Jesus loves the Pharisees and puts up with these confrontations for their salvation because He does not want them to perish. John 1:19,27; Luke 20:3-8 Love is willing to risk relationship and acceptance to see a person's eternal soul be saved.

³⁵ He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. ³⁶ But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.

35, 36 The public was excited about the prophet John and the hope he brought of the coming Messiah. Jesus' miraculous actions fulfilled the prophecies giving evidence that He is the One the Father has sent into the world for our salvation.

The original language has the definite article before "lamp". John was the lamp. Jesus was referring to something specific, perhaps the Messianic prediction in Psalm 132:17. ¹⁷ "Here I will make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for my anointed one. As Jesus is the Son of David, David is a prophetic Messianic term (Hosea 3:5). Anointed one is "the Christ" in Greek. Jesus very well may have had this passage in mind.

Jesus was basically saying that you should believe because of what you see in the way I live. That should be one of our goals as well. Our lives should cause people to listen to what we proclaim.

37 And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen,

37 God spoke at the baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:22). He is witness number three. They couldn't hear it in their hearts, and they can't see the Father in Jesus' actions (John 12:28,29; 14:10). They hear His words and see Him, but don't really hear or see Him.

38 and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

38, 39 Rabbi Hillel taught that the mere study of the Word was life giving. But Jesus is saying that He is life giving and the Word points to Him. He is declaring that they have missed the whole essence of the Word of God. Man has done the same ever since, not seeing the Scriptures pointing to Jesus and our need of the salvation He brings. The Scriptures are witness number four. Think of how many people you have heard quote a Scripture to exalt their ego when the Scriptures and the life of Jesus teach humble submission to our Creator. Does His Word live in us?

40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

40 Hundreds of passages were fulfilled in the life of Jesus. They studied those passages and saw Jesus fulfill them, but they wouldn't come to Him for life. Why? It is the same reason people refuse Him today. They want to be god over their own lives.

41 I do not receive glory from people.

41 Jesus doesn't need to be glorified by man for He is the glorious One. Out of His pure heart shines the glory (attributes) of God which is infinitely more than any glory He could receive from mankind. We are either looking for man's praise or God's.

42 But I know that you do not have the love of God within you.

42 Here is the condemnation: refusal to allow the love of God to fill our hearts. Jesus is the expression of God's love. Receiving His love is the only way we can share in His glory.

43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

43 Jesus' name means salvation, the name given Him by the angel. People are like sheep. Most prefer to follow a leader. Other men would claim to be Messiah and the Jews would follow them to their own fruitless destruction in 70A.D.

44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

44 Mankind loves to be praised and respected. Much of what we do is to receive the approval of others. But what we should be living for is the pleasure of God our

Creator. If the most honored person in the world does not seek to be right with God, what will all man's praise mean to him or her in eternity?

⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

45-47 That was a powerful slap across the face, declaring they missed the whole point of the Torah. Jews thought Moses was in heaven interceding for them (Deuteronomy 18:15). Jesus is saying Moses is accusing them. Again and again, Jesus' declared that the Old Testament is all about Him (Luke 24:27; John 12:41). If they spent their life in the Torah, prophecies, and writings and yet refused to see Jesus living it out, how would they ever believe Him? May God open our eyes to see Him in all the Scriptures. The One who sovereignly orchestrated history was writing His story.

Questions:

What is Jesus striving to convey regarding witnesses? Why?

What is the first, second, third, and fourth witness?

Who is *the* lamp?

Why won't people accept Jesus as Lord?

Whose praise/glory do we seek? Whose did Jesus seek?

What part of the Bible is about Jesus?