

Can I Really Know Who Jesus Is?

John 5:16-20

Introduction

- A question that is just as critical now as it was 2,000 years ago. (Jn. 8:24; cf. Acts 4:12)
- The question many have is: Why should I believe in Him? What evidence is provided?
- John 5 provides a resounding “yes” to our question.
 - Jesus heals on the Sabbath day. (1-15); The Jews begin to persecute him and seek to kill him. (18)
 - They accused him of violating the Sabbath day. (16)
 - They thought He blasphemed when He made himself equal with God. (18)
 - The Jews rejected the testimony of Jesus and He offers 4 witnesses in support of his claims. (Dt. 19:15)
- When challenged, Jesus didn’t... Refuse to provide evidence... Say “just believe” – don’t need evidence... Say just “pray and get a good feeling and it will be true for you.”
- Bible faith is not belief without evidence.
 - Jesus never asked anyone to believe without evidence.
 - Since faith is based on evidence, Jesus provided them with 4 witnesses that bore testimony to the truth that He was the Son of God who had come from heaven as the Savior of the world.

I. Witness No. 1 → John the baptist

- John bore witness to the truth. (Jn. 5:33-35): As to who Jesus is... The Father had sent John. (Jn. 1:6); John testified to the truth that he had seen and heard. (Jn. 1:29-34); They had been willing to listen to John for a while. (Jn. 5:35)
- The character of this witness: Humble → Jn. 3:26-30; Convinced → Matt. 14:3-10

II. Witness No. 2 → The Miracles

- The works the Father gave him to do testified as to his identity. (Jn. 5:36)
 - Miracles were a sign that God was acting or communicating. (Jn. 3:2; 14:11); God is authenticated that Jesus was his son. (Acts 2:22)
- The nature of the miracles. (Jn. 20:30-31)
 - In the book of John. (2,4,5,6,9,11); Not even the enemies of Jesus could deny the miracles. (Jn. 5:12; 9:30-34; 11:45-47); They were too stubborn to admit the message to which they testified.

III. Witness No. 3 → The Father Himself

- The Father spoke audibly from heaven giving testimony for Jesus. (Matt. 2:16-17; 17:5; Jn. 12:48)
- They did not listen, pay attention to the word of God. (Jn. 5:37)
- They did not have God’s word abiding in them. (Jn. 5:38)
 - They had learned it, could quote it, but did not have an effect on their lives. They did not apply it. They knew the prophets, but failed to make the connections.

IV. Witness No. 4 → The Prophetic Scriptures

- The scriptures would lead one to eternal life, and the knowledge of who Jesus was, but not if rejected. (Jn. 5:39)
 - They rejected the scriptures, the very word designed to be a testimony that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
 - The remarkable testimony of the O.T. prophets.
 - Over 300 details of the life of Christ set forth in prophecy. (Bethlehem, virgin birth, death, resurrection, etc.)
 - Look at the prophecies in Isa. 53:3 and Ps. 22:8 → those who rejected him and mocked him were the subject of O.T. prophecy. (II Pet. 1:16-21; Lk. 16:31)