

John 5:31-47 - The Claims of Christ - Reasons to Believe

Today we come to the final section
of the “Claims of Christ” in Jn Ch 5

Remember this discourse is

Jesus’ answer to the Pharisee’s RESPONSE

After Jesus Healed the Man at the Pool of Bethesda

In John 5:18 – The Pharisees Commit – TO KILL JESUS

In response, Jesus makes it perfectly CLEAR – Who He is

In the 1st section – Of the Claims of Christ

Jesus revealed His Total Equality w/ God

In the 2nd section – Of the Claims of Christ

Jesus revealed His authority over Resurrection & Judgment

& in this last section – Of the Claims of Christ

Jesus is going to give the Pharisee’s, & US – Reasons to Believe

In the face of these CLEAR CLAIMS -

The Pharisees REFUSED to Believe

I pray WE – as WE hear these CLEAR CLAIMS

That WE would, INSTEAD - CHOOSE to Believe

Let’s Pray

This is a **RADICAL** section of Scripture

& it **ENDS** with two **HARD-HITTING** Paragraphs
of Jesus saying - in essence –

You have **ALL** you Need - to Believe

If you **CHOOSE NOT TO** Believe

It doesn't mean God didn't to **HIS PART**

Jesus has made it **CLEAR** – In **SO MANY WAYS** –
Exactly **WHO** He **IS**

So - Jesus starts this section by saying

He is **NOT** being His Own Witness – There are **MANY, MANY**
other 'Witnesses' - both Human and Divine

Jesus says – in John 5:31–32 (NLT)

31 “If I were to testify on my own behalf, my testimony would not be valid.

32 But someone else is also testifying about me, and I assure you that everything he says about me is true.

Jesus is going to **START EASY** –

With the Testimony – of John the Baptist

John 5:33 (NLT)

33 In fact, you sent investigators to listen to John the Baptist, and his testimony about me was true.

Back in John Ch 1 – The Religious Leaders sent a **DELEGATION**
to Question John The Baptist

& John clearly said he was **not** the Messiah –

But was sent to **PREPARE** the Way **FOR** the Messiah

& the very next day – John Pointed to Jesus & Said

“Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”

& **from that day** forward – John the Baptist made it **perfectly clear**
that **Jesus** was the **Messiah**

He made it clear over & over again

The Pharisee’s knew

that was the clear Testimony of John the Baptist

in **vs’s 34-35** Jesus **continues** w/ John the Baptist

John 5:34–35 (NLT)

34 Of course, I have no need of human witnesses, but I say these things so you might be saved.

35 John was like a burning and shining lamp, and you were excited for a while about his message.

Jesus says *I have no need of human witnesses, but I say these things so you might be saved.*

Jesus is concerned about the Salvation

of those who will soon **have Him Hung** on a cross

But they’re no different than you & me are they?

because actually – **it’s our sin** that Hung Jesus on the **cross**

Then Jesus says (**v.35**) the Religious Leaders were excited about his message – **FOR A WHILE**

The **Religious Community** was looking for a Messiah who would be their **CHAMPION**

A **Messiah** Who would give them their **BEST LIFE NOW** – **Politically, & Militarily, & Socially**

But when John the Baptist pointed to a meek & **lowly carpenter** saying, Here is your **TRUE MESSIAH**

John quickly **fell out** of favor with the **Religious Elite**

Things really aren't that different **today** – are they ?

If Jesus isn't the savior people **want** they just go **find** a **new one**

Then - In **vs. 36** - Jesus steps up His “**Reasons to Believe**”

John 5:36 (NLT)

36 But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me.

Now **Jesus** moves to the **DIVINE WITNESS**

The **TESTIMONIES** from Heaven

That give us **UNDENIABLE** reasons to Believe

The Teachings of Jesus –

That were SO RADICAL - & LIFE CHANGING

& the MIRACLES - Far too many to count

All CLEARLY TESTIFIED to Jesus being

SENT from Heaven - AS the Savior

In fact - the very last vs of the Gospel of John says this

John 21:25 (NLT)

25 Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.

& ALL these THINGS – that Jesus DID

Were ALL DONE - to give us “Reasons to Believe”

& the NEXT Divine Testimony from Heaven

is the Testimony of the FATHER

John 5:37 (NLT)

37 And the Father who sent me has testified about me himself. You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face,

The VERBAL testimony of the *Father*

is recorded at the *baptism of Jesus*

When the heavens opened

& the Father’s voice WAS HEARD - saying;

“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”

& time after time – before, during, & after

Jesus' ministry on earth

the **Father in Heaven has TESTIFIED** to Who Jesus **IS**

YET, despite all this testimony, Jesus says:

“You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face.”

Let this sink in—Jesus is speaking to the most RELIGIOUS people of the day!

They had the **Scriptures**. They kept **the Law**.

They were **“God’s Representatives.”**

BUT THEY HAD NEVER PERSONALLY RECEIVED THE FATHER’S TESTIMONY.

- They were **experts** in religious **knowledge**
but **strangers** to a **real, living relationship** with God!
- They knew **ABOUT** God,
but they had **never** truly **KNOWN** God.

Just as **we learned** last week—

To “hear” means to **“PERSONALLY RECEIVE.”**

It’s **more** than information—it’s ***revelation*** and ***relationship!***

JESUS IS TELLING THEM:

“You take pride in your position—but you have never had a personal experience or a personal relationship with God.”

& Jesus continues in John 5:38 (NLT)

38 and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one he sent to you.

Jesus is saying to the **most religious** people on the planet

even tho you study the scriptures **every** day . . .

you have **not** **“Personally Received”** God’s Word -

& you **do not** have God’s word **“ABIDING”** in your hearts

& the Determining Evidence that they had not

heard God - or **SEEN** God – or **have** God’s Word abiding in them

Is their rejection of Jesus Christ ! - - - (that’s serious, isn’t it?)

& this is where Jesus really begins

to make this Shocking Truth – **CLEAR**

You can be immersed in Religion -

& never **“Personally Receive”** Jesus Christ

It’s like the two guys who went up to the **observation floor**
of the **Sears Tower** in Chicago

& as they stepped out

one guy was **immediately** in **awe** of the view

His **eyes stretched** to the end of the **horizon** –

& He was **overwhelmed** by all that he could **see**

& as he stopped to look for his friend –
he found him analyzing the window frame in minute detail
& when the 1st guy asked him about the incredible view –
his friend said;

*“well, it looks like the window is probably extruded
aluminum – it could be a mixture of metals*

*& the glass looks about an inch thick,
but that could be an optical allusion*

My concern is - not all the windows are exactly the same size”

& that man left that incredible observation deck
NEVER having experienced the purpose of the window

Because he couldn't get past looking at the window itself

& that is EXACTLY what Jesus is talking about in these next vs's

John 5:39 (NLT)

*39 “You search the Scriptures because you think they give you
eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!*

You search the scriptures for a *WAY* to heaven”

but your totally missing who the scriptures point to

You are so focused on the window
that you're missing the view

You are SO PROUD of your KNOWLEDGE of the Scriptures

But you are **MISSING** the **ONE**
the **Scriptures** were designed to **SHOW YOU**

The SCRIBES & PHARISEES had

an incredible **reverence** for the **scriptures** –

they were **obsessed** w/ focusing on the minutest **details** -

Which is Partly How God gave us

such **Perfect Manuscripts** of the Bible

But their focus was so much on the **scripture** itself -

that they **missed** the **One** that all scripture speaks of

& the saddest thing about that is -

The **spirit** of the **Pharisees** is alive & well in the church **today**

Have you ever met someone who is **very religious** -

yet seems to be **missing** a real **personal relationship** with
Jesus?

THAT is the person – Jesus is speaking to here

& **in the next vs** Jesus gets **STRAGHT** to the **HEART**

John 5:40 (NLT)

40 Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

There are those – who are so **confident** in their **religion** -

they **reject** their need to actually **KNOW JESUS**

They are not willing to see **thru** their religion – to **Jesus**

They are **satisfied** looking at the **window** – instead of the **view**

& **notice it DOESN'T say** they **AREN'T ABLE** to come to Jesus
it says they **AREN'T WILLING** to come to Jesus

Guys – **the only benefit** of **religion**

is if it **points**, to a **Real Relationship** w/ Jesus

God wrote the Bible to point to Jesus

if we use the Bible for **any other** purpose -

then we're **looking** at the **window** - & **missing** the **view**

Watch in these next Vs's – what **PROVES**,

that the **Pharisee's** - did **not have** the **Love of God** in them

John 5:41–44(a) (NLT)

41 “Your approval means nothing to me,

42 because I know you don't have God's love within you.

43 For I have come to you in my Father's name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them.

44 No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God.

What a **WARNING** !!

The Pharisees **LIVED** for

the Honor & Praise of **PEOPLE**

But they were **NOT CONCERNED** about
the **HONOR** & **APPROVAL** that comes from **GOD ALONE**
& that is a very clear **WARNING** to **US**

Why did the Pharisees receive
those who came in their **own name**?

because **they came** giving **honor** to the Pharisees

Just **as we** tend to **receive** those
who come **giving honor** to us

Mis-placed honor is a very **dangerous** thing -
& **receiving** mis-placed honor, is even **more dangerous**

Everything the **Pharisees** did was to **receive honor**;

They **dressed** to receive honor

They **prayed** to receive honor

They **studied** the scripture to receive honor

& **honor** they did **receive** – **w/ prominence** among the people

They loved RECEIVING Honor from the **PEOPLE**

MUCH More than **GIVING** Honor **TO** –
Or Receiving Honor **FROM**

The **God they** claimed to **SERVE**

This **should** strike **DEEP FEAR**
Into **EVERY** Pastor's **HEART**

That should **STRIKE FEAR** into ALL our Hearts

The **ONLY ONE** who Deserves the **HIGHEST HONOR**
from any of us – is Jesus Christ

& the **ONLY** Honor we are to **SEEK**
Is the Honor that comes from **GOD ALONE** (as v.44 says)

This is a **HUGE** & a **SCARY** Truth – Especially for **ANYONE**
who is in a “Spiritual Leadership” Position

Finally - **Jesus Finishes** this incredible **discourse** –
by FIPPING the Pharisees Confidence on it's **HEAD**

In the end – it will be the very **LAW** of Moses
That they put their **FULL TRUST IN**

That will **ACCUSE** them Before **GOD**

John 5:45–47 (NLT)

45 “Yet it isn’t I who will accuse you before the Father. Moses (The Law Giver) will accuse you! Yes, Moses, in whom you put your hopes.

46 If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. 47 But since you don’t believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?”

This should be the loudest
wake-up call possible to the Pharisee’s

Moses was their lawgiver, their **prophet**, their **moral master**,

But here –Jesus says;

If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me.

Moses wrote about Jesus ??? . . .

YES – OVER & OVER & OVER AGAIN

Noah's **Ark** - that saved the **Righteous** from Judgment

The **Offering of Abraham's** only son **Isaac** – **ON THE SAME** Place that God would offer his Only Son

Jacob's **Ladder**

The **Passover** Lamb

The **Manna** from Heaven

Living **Water** from the rock that was **STRUCK**

The **Serpent** on the Pole –

ALL, PICTURES OF JESUS CHRIST

not to mention the hundreds of O.T. **prophecies** that **Jesus** was in the process of **fulfilling**

BUT - The Pharisee's Couldn't **SEE JESUS**

Because they were **SO** Focused on the **WINDOW** that was Built to **SHOW THEM** Jesus!

& **maybe we** **KNOW** someone like that –

They know something about the Bible – maybe **A LOT**

But - Like the Pharisee's;

They haven't Personally Received

The **ONE** - the Bible is Pointing To

They haven't come Face-To-Face with God

in a **Personal Relationship**

Maybe (like the Pharisees) their focus on **Religion**,

has caused them **to Miss KNOWING Jesus personally**

Turn over to Matthew 7:22–23 (NLT)

22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' (**ALL** good religious actions)

23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

There are those who will face **Jesus** on that day –

with only **their religion** as their **confidence**

& it will be their religion –

the **very thing** they put their **confidence** in -

that **will accuse** them

& So – if you're trusting in religion today

You **MAY BE looking at the window**

& **missing** the view - the Window is meant to show you

Don't let your religious background become a substitute for knowing Jesus!

On that day, only ONE thing will matter:

Do you know Him?

**Has your heart come face-to-face
with the living Christ?**

God's Word - & True Religion

is **MEANT to show you** – & to **LEAD you to**

an **eternally rewarding RELATIONSHIP** w/ **Jesus Christ**

Let's Pray