John 5:30-40 "Jesus, Credentials of Deity"

5.29.22

Well, as we begin this morning, I must tell you, as I read our passage of study for today, I actually started working on it last Sunday afternoon, (that's when I begin preparation for the week ahead). As I finished reading the passage, I just sat shaking my head and I thought, "That might be the most depressing passage of Scripture in all of the Bible." I felt sad and disheartened for these men:



The Pharisees listened and watched Jesus perform miracle after miracle and say and do things that a normal man could never do; and yet, in their stubborn obstinance, they refused to believe that Jesus was the Son of God. You say, "Why are you sad?" Because unless something changed before they died, they are eternally separated from God and at this very moment are in Hades awaiting final Judgment and the Lake of Fire. That makes me sad. It's so sad indeed, and so scary that human beings can be so spiritually blind. Let's read it together and you'll see what I mean:

John 5:30-40

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. 31 If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not
true. 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. 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. [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,[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, [40] yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

That is so depressing to me. They refused to believe! Now, I mentioned it last week in one of the services, but I want to state it categorically here…I believe this passage of Scripture, (John chapter 5), is perhaps the greatest treatise Jesus every offered on His Deity. It is so powerful, so profound, so stinging to the religious leaders that it will eventually cost Him His life. You see, church family, may we be reminded: Jesus wasn't claiming to be a good teacher with a new message. He wasn't claiming to be a noble man with righteous causes. He wasn't claiming to be just a miracle-worker with great powers. No, He was claiming to be the Son of God, Himself!

So, because of this, what we have running parallel with Jesus' claim to be the Son of God is the increasing hostility and animosity of the religious leaders…who are now plotting how to kill Him. It's so sad: they're unwilling to come to the truth, blinded by their own self-righteousness.

You'll remember back in John 3, the conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus,



(a Pharisee in his own right), was wrestling with who Jesus was. Jump down to that most famous verse: John 3:16…

John 3:16-21

[16] "For God so loved the world,[i] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. [18] Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. [19] And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. [20] For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. [21] But

whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

You say, "What's your point." My point is the point Jesus was making was this: "Nicodemus, you can be the most fastidious Pharisee ever known…you can keep all of your rules and regulations to a 'T,' but I'm the Messiah and you are going to have to trust in me now, or you will never make it to heaven." That's what Jesus was saying to that group of Pharisees in the Temple on that Sabbath Day and you'll remember, how they got there. The Pharisees and religious leaders had just watched Jesus heal the crippled man at the pool of Bethesda… See the depiction:



Oh! And they were INTENTLY watching. Remember, Jesus healed this crippled man who had been lame for 38 years, but they didn't celebrate! They were blinded with anger and hostility because Jesus performed the miracle on the Sabbath, which was a violation of the law. No, it wasn't a violation of the Law of God, it was a violation of their laws…the extra laws they had made up. But, Jesus refused to go along with their charade and it infuriated them.

What Jesus did next, (and what we just read) was how Jesus offered THREE EVIDENCES as to why the religious leaders should believe in Him as the Son of God. BTW, Jesus did this in accordance with the OT Law, which says in Deuteronomy that you must have at least two (2) or three (3) witnesses to establish a credible testimony (Deut. 17:6 and 19:15). And we certainly know that even in our culture, you can't witness your own signature, right? So, here are the three (3) witnesses to validate His ministry.

The Three Evidences of Jesus' Deity

1. **John the Baptist**
2. **The Miracles**
3. **God's Word (through Scripture)**

Church family, you see, Jesus knew these guys would not accept His testimony about Himself. They looked at Him in total unbelief. They are infuriated with Jesus because He continues to claim that God is His Father. See it again, verse 30:

John 5:30-31

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

So, because of their unbelief, Jesus brought more witnesses to the witness stand. The first was John the Baptist.

John 5:32-35

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. 35 He was a burning
and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

Now you remember John the Baptist.



We spent a lot of time talking about him in chapter 1 and 3. He was a wild-looking man, a cousin of Jesus, who was sent by God as a prophet to prepare the way for the arrival of Jesus. Remember, John’s job was to preach and offer a baptism of repentance to prepare the heart for Jesus. He drew massive crowds…



They flocked to hear him preach on the banks of the Jordan River in Judea. Even Jesus, Himself…



would be baptized by John. Indeed, all the people were very excited about John's ministry. Even the leaders couldn't deny that John was a local celebrity. In fact, some of the people were even saying that John might actually be the long-awaited Messiah, the Promised One. But, here again, sadly, the religious leaders refused to receive John's message of repentance.

I want to remind you of something very important about John and his interaction with the religious elite. As you're turning, I'll say this: it's so interesting, the sinners, the commoners accepted John's message but not the religious leaders. The poor, the haggard, the "nobodies," But, the wealthy, religious elite…they wouldn't; and so, John called them out. He called them a "brood of vipers," (Jesus would copy that terminology). Watch this…

Matthew 3:7-10

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

You see, when John came, there was a national fervor over him and his message! And yet, he performed no miracles, but to the "people," John was clearly a fulfillment in their minds of the promise in the Old Testament, that "a voice crying in the wilderness," would come and "make straight the path for the Lord." John the Baptist was the lamp that held the light. It's like this…



That lamp holds that light bulb, right? Because what is the most important thing about the lamp? The bulb! The lamp is no good without the bulb. We're the lamp and Jesus is the bulb. In essence, John was the first lamp to hold up Jesus and Jesus said, "For a while you were willing to rejoice in the message John brought, that is, until He announced that I was the Messiah…Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." **That's when everything came to a screeching halt**.

John was on the "outs" after that. And that's why none of the religious leaders lifted a finger to try to get John out of prison when he was arrested by Herod. Herod would later behead him. But, John fulfilled his purpose for being the lamp-bearer for Jesus. So, Jesus offered John as the first witness, but the religious elite refused him also…now to witness #2, the second Evidence of Jesus' Deity:

The Three Evidences of Jesus' Deity

1. **John the Baptist**
2. **The Miracles**
3. **God's Word (through Scripture)**

John 5:36

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.

You will remember when Jesus was having that conversation with Nicodemus,



Nicodemus said to Jesus: “Nobody can do what You do unless God is with him?” And that’s true, because you see, when Jesus was on this earth, there was never a question that He actually performed miracles. The religious elites never denied that He performed miracles. It’s just that they didn’t believe the miracles were of God or Jesus was of God. Watch John 10…

John 10:24-25

24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you
are the Christ, tell us plainly.” 25 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works
that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me.

Church family, think about this with me: when it comes to Jesus’ miracles, He never held meetings where they put out signs… “Miracles, Come for a Miracle,” and then you get there and He blew on people or “slayed” them in the spirit. No, Jesus simply moved from town to town and healed as He went. Jesus literally performed thousands upon thousands of miracles for people during His ministry.

But, I get it…people today can sit in schools of higher education and declare that they don’t believe Jesus performed miracles. That proves nothing just because they say that. They have no authority in their pontifications. Jesus’ miracles were His credentials. His miracles were never refuted by the people of His day, because they saw them happen with their own eyes, and that includes the Pharisees, but they continued to refuse to believe. See verse 37…Jesus calls them out…

John 5:37-38

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,38 and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not
believe the one whom he has sent.

Wow! A scathing rebuke! Why couldn’t the Pharisees hear the voice of God? Simple. Because they didn’t belong to God. Jesus said, “My sheep know me and recognize my voice.” They didn’t know Him. Well, that’s REJECTION #2…Now #3. The third evidence of Jesus’ Deity:

The Three Evidences of Jesus’ Deity

1. **John the Baptist**
2. **The Miracles**

3. God's Word (through Scripture)

John 5:39-40
39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

It's true, the Jewish leaders had the Old Testament…they had the Scriptures which were filled with prophecies about Jesus…over 300 of them; and yet, they refused to believe that they actually pointed to Jesus. Oh, they knew the Word of God (the OT) inside and out, but they didn't know the God of the Bible! The Jewish Scribes counted the very letters of the text, throwing away copies that had even one missing letter; but they, and their counterparts, missed the spiritual truths of the text itself. They were religious, but not saved. I hope that's not you.

I want to show you something that will blow mind and will probably be the thing you remember most about today's message. I want to show you some modern-day religious elites and what they think about God. This is a video from Duke Divinity at a recent Chapel Service. It's about 3 minutes long and remember, this where the next pastors for Methodist churches are coming from.

That is blasphemy and outright heresy! I don't know that young lady who spoke, I will not show you any of the other four speakers, because what they shared was so grotesque. It made me sad and depressed. Just like I felt last Sunday as I read this passage. Those folks do not have any idea who the God of the Bible really is. Their interpretation of Scripture is defective and simply suits their twisted agenda and their abhorrent lifestyles. And that church family is an example of the first century Pharisees…those who could NOT and would NOT give up their power and their authority and their way of life to follow Jesus and deny themselves, humbling themselves to surrender in repentance and be followers of the true God, not the one they've made up. Queer One? TransMan? Disgusting!

But, what about you? Who do say God is? Do you believe Jesus is His Son? Do you believe the evidences? Do you believe the testimony of Scripture…the miracles… Do you believe Jesus is the Messiah? If you do, you will follow Him in obedience to His Word. The Pharisees were unwilling to do that and today they are in agony in Hades. And that makes me sad. Don't let that be you. Surrender to Jesus and follow Him! It's the greatest decision of your life!