

# Proving The Truth About Jesus, Part 1

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**John 5:30-35**

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Have you've ever seen somebody, a man or a woman, stand up and look up at the sky and put their arms out and say, "Jesus, if you're real, what, come down and show me. Come down here right now. Do some miracle. Show yourself and I'll believe." When I used to preach on the street a bunch, I had people do that to me all the time. It was some open and shut case. Like, okay, I'm going to get you on this one. Jesus. It's like, come on, stop that. Slow down, chief. That's what I would say to them. Slow down. Who do you think you are talking to the God of the universe like that? It's blasphemy to think that God is like some dog, that he's just going to jump through your hoops. That's not how God works. You ever see anything like that though? You maybe ever do something like that back in the day, maybe yesterday? Who knows?

On the one hand, it is blasphemy to talk about God like that, but on the other hand, people want proof. Prove to me that this whole thing is true. Prove to me He's the son of God. Give me the evidence that this really is something that'll change my life and make it better, prove it. And I find it interesting that though Jesus is God in the flesh, He didn't say, Hey, believe it because I said so. I said it, that settles it. I'm the Son of God. Verse 23. Same honor that you show, God, you should show me, and you should do it because I said so. No, what he did was, He knows the word just dust. He condescends to our weakness and He gives proof. Starting in verse 30, that's what Jesus is doing with the religious leaders who were there that day.

Religious leaders, verse 18, says they want to kill Him. He just spent verses 19 to 29 declaring the truth about Himself. Now, He's going to prove the truth about Himself. See, it's one thing for Jesus to declare six different ways that He's equal with God. That's what He did in verses 19 to 29. But that sounds outrageous. If you were there that day, I've been trying to bring that out, if you've been in this series, I'm trying to bring it out that that's outrageous. That's like this guy that I met in high school who told me I am St. Peter. Like, no, you're not. You're crazy. You're not St. Peter. But for Jesus to say that He is equal with God, He's either a liar, insane, or He really is the Son of God. There's no third option. Now, He could have just dropped the mic and left.

I'm the son of God. You worship me as just like you worship the Father. I'm out. He could have done that. And you know what? If you did the Bible reading this week, He did that. You saw Him do that in Mark chapter four. In Mark four, He gives this parable of the soils. Remember that one? Sower goes out and sows the seed and some lands on this soil and some lands on that soil, some lands on this and that one. And then He left. Everybody there that day would've been like, what in the world was that all about? In fact, that was His disciples. They said to Him, what is this all about? And He explains the parable only to them. To everybody else, He dropped the mic and walked away.

Well, He could have done that right here with these guys. I'm equal with God. Just believe it because I said it. But no, He gives them proof. And I want you to notice why He gave them proof. Look at the end of verse 34. He says, "I say these things", why, "so that you may be saved." Notice the grace and the mercy, the compassion for sinners such wretches. They would've killed Him on the spot if they could. And to these wicked men, He says, "I want you to be saved." See, most of you are here today to hear God's word. That's why you're here. Some of you are here because you're just like God wanted me to be here and that's why I'm here. I've talked to people who are driving by and it was like God just grabbed my heart and said you need to go there. That's you maybe. Others, you're here simply to make the person next to you happy. You wouldn't be here if it wasn't for them bugging you and nagging you.

But for whatever reason you think you're here. Jesus says, you are here right now to hear the same things that He is going to say to these guys. And for the same reason, because He wants you to be saved too. Saved from what? Saved, rescued, delivered from the punishment you deserve for all of your sins, all of your crimes against God. See, God loves sinners even though all of our sin is ultimately, what? It's against Him. And in spite of that, He loves sinners so much that He punished Jesus on the cross for the sins that Jesus didn't commit. Punished Jesus as a substitute for all who would turn from their rebellion and trust in Jesus as the only one who can save them from their sin.

You don't need to clean yourself up. You don't need to make yourself better. You don't need any kind of personal change to do that. You don't have to jump through some religious hoop like baptism or confirmation or any of that stuff. You just come. No matter who you are, no matter what you've done, no matter what's been done to you, you can be washed. What did we say just now? As white as snow. All of your sin permanently, eternally replaced with the sinless perfection that only Jesus has. That can be yours today, even now. So come. For some, God has been preparing your heart already before you even got here to hear that. He's been working deep in your soul to hear that. So don't be tempted to push it away. Just come, come to Christ. Don't harden your heart. He promises rest for your soul. Think about that. Rest. Deep in your soul. The turmoil deep in your soul, gone instantly. Peace. Who wouldn't want that? Who wouldn't want that?

Now, some, within the sound of my voice, are ready now to give their lives to Christ. They need no other argument. They need no other plea. It's enough that Jesus died for sinners. So even now, they would believe. So do it now. Others need proof. And that's where Jesus begins in verse 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." Jesus returns to this idea that He is equal with God. But I want you to notice He drives that point home here with something that's very easy for us to miss. In verses 19 to 29, Jesus talks about the Son or the Son of God or even the Son of man.

There's a distance there because even though He's talking about Himself, He's talking about Himself in the third person. In verse 30, He switches that. Starting in verse 30, He uses the first person I, me, my. If there was any confusion in their minds about what He was saying, that He

was talking about someone else and not Himself, that confusion is gone now. He makes it clear now that He, Jesus, is equal with God. Verse 30 basically repeats verse 19. "I can do nothing of my own accord." Meaning, I'm not independent. I don't do anything independently just because I want to based on my own authority. He's saying here, that is impossible for me to do. I'm not a rival trying to replace God. No, I'm equal. And notice the text, equal in will, equal in desire, equal in purpose. It's impossible for Him to do anything that the Father doesn't want Him to do. So His actions, His assessments, His conclusions, what He calls here, His judgment. His assessment on anything and everything, even everything He's been saying that day, all of that is just, it's right, it's true because everything He says and does comes from the Father. He cannot ever be separate from God because He is God, the second person of the Trinity. And as such, He can't say anything or do anything. In our text it says, He can't even desire anything against the Father.

Well, as we take a step back from that, we think about that for a second. Here He is beginning to prove that what He's been saying about Himself that day is true. Let's start with point #1) ***Realize everything Jesus said about Himself is fact. Realize everything Jesus said about Himself is fact.*** He never said anything about Himself, He never said anything, period, that wasn't true, that wasn't fact, that didn't match reality, that didn't match the way things actually are. He always only ever spoke the truth. He's the furthest thing from a liar or insane. If Jesus is insane, what does that say about the rest of us? But when He said He was equal with God, when He said He should be worshiped as the Father is worshiped, in verse 23, listen, that's fact.

When He says in verse 21 and 25 and 28 that He has the power to raise the dead, that's fact. When He says in verse 22 that all judgment belongs to Him, which means every one of us will stand before Him in judgment, that's fact too. He never said anything that wasn't true. Why? Because John 1:14 says Jesus is full of truth. In John 1:18-37, He said, proclaiming and proving the truth is why He was born. And He just summarizes it all in John 14:6 when he says what, I am truth. So you might be thinking to yourself, well, preacher, sounds good, but how do you know that what Jesus said in the Bible is what He actually said? Good question. The way we know that is because what you have in these four books about Jesus, the gospels, those were either written by eyewitnesses, by people who knew eyewitnesses, or by people who interviewed eyewitnesses. That's what you have here.

So for instance, Matthew and John, they were there that day. They knew Jesus personally. They were one of the 12. They were there for just about everything Jesus said and did and recorded it in their books. Now, Mark wasn't one of the 12, but he knew Peter. He was close to Peter. So he wrote down the things that Peter said who was there when Jesus said these things and did these things. So he writes down the words of an eyewitness. And then you have Luke. To do this in other services, but turn to Luke chapter one. Where's Luke? It's one book to the left. So if you get to Mark or Matthew, you've gone too far.

Luke chapter one. Before he writes down what he says in his book, he wants his readers to understand something about the nature of his book. What is it that he tried to do in writing? And

I want you to notice that what he wrote down was not only from eyewitnesses, you see that there. So he wrote down the memories of eyewitnesses who were there, but he wrote what he calls, I think, in verse three, an orderly account. You see that? An orderly account, that's technical language for, I wrote history. I'm writing facts. I'm not writing fantasy. This is not legend. This is facts. So he sees himself as an investigative reporter conveying just the facts.

He's comprehensive, he's careful. And his goal, look at verse four, was so that everyone who reads it may "have certainty concerning the things that you've been taught." I am writing history, he's saying, so that you will know exactly what happened. You will have certainty as to what you've heard about Jesus. And back to John five, that's who wrote down what Jesus said, eyewitnesses. And think about it, they got no benefit from what they wrote. No gold, no girls, no glory. Each one was persecuted, all but one was martyred. Now, it's one thing to die for something that is a lie, but you didn't know was a lie. That that can happen easily. It's another thing altogether to die for a lie that you made up.

It's another thing to die and have your family die. Like Peter, his wife was crucified right before he was. So it's one thing for you to die and your family to die and your brothers and sisters in Christ to die when all you could do is say, you know what, we made it up. Made it up. It's a total lie. You got me. No, these men sealed these words with their own blood. Why, because they knew it was true. So what you have in the Bible is not the original message becoming completely distorted from the original. No, what you have are Jesus' actual words, not just His voice, His actual words. That's what you have in your Bible, what He actually said. And then to seal this, He promised that that's exactly what would happen.

Listen to John 14:25. He says to His disciples, quote, "These things I've spoken to you while I'm with you", so all the stuff I've spoken to you while I was with you, "but when I leave, the helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things", and listen to this, "bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." He will remind ... We read this and think, oh good, I've got this promise that I'll be reminded of things that I forget when I need it. No, the text is to these men there that day. Hey, Matthew, when you write your book, John, when you write your book, hey, when all you guys go out and preach and say this is what Jesus said, He says, you will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. You're not going to leave out or forget a thing that He said.

So when some skeptic or that inner lawyer wants you to doubt that what you have in the Bible are the words of Jesus, you can fight that stuff back. Say, no, no. What I have in the Bible are Jesus' actual words written down by the people who heard it with their own ears or written down by the people who interviewed the people who heard it with their own ears. And then on top of that, realize that everything he said about Himself, even that He is equal with God, realize all of that is fact. And He sealed that by rising from the dead.

And one more thing on this, well actually two more things on this. First, don't forget Christianity didn't start with applause. Oh, this is awesome. We've been waiting for this. That's not how it

happened. And it didn't happen far away in some other distant land. Hey, there's this thing I need to tell you about that happened a thousand miles away. It was crazy.

No, it started in the streets of Jerusalem, the city where Jesus was executed, a city full of people that wanted to kill Christianity in its infancy. It didn't take decades or centuries either, like missing legends do. There was this guy, His name was Jesus. it was like this guy. He was so amazing. Oh, He is so amazing. Maybe He was God. Well, no, actually He is God that just developed over time this legend about this ordinary man. No, that's not what happened. When did Christianity start? Answer 50 days. Not 50 weeks, not 50 years. 50 days after Jesus was executed, day of Pentecost church is born and the message of Jesus, the same things that He said. That same message is now spread all over the world. Jesus is no fraud. He's no legend. He's no fantasy. What He said, even that He's equal with God. That is fact. And you have that faithfully recorded in what you have in your laps, the Bible.

Now, are there more questions? Yeah, there are all kinds of questions of course. But one more thing, remember, Christianity started by being attacked. Founder was executed, earliest leaders were all martyred. Christians were persecuted for the first 300 years. Longer than our nation has existed, Christians were persecuted, killed for being Christians. It's been attacked from the very beginning, which means Christian answers to the attacks have existed from the very beginning. I believe there's not a single objection that has ever been presented against Christianity that has not already been answered. The problem is never that we don't have the answers, the problem is we don't know where to find the answers. But guess what, that's what pastors are for.

That's why we're here. That's why we mill around outside. That's why we shake your hand at the back door. That's why we do that stuff. That's why we're here and present. And you can find us all the time here. That's why we give you our emails on the back of the program. That's why we do podcasts like Redeeming Truth and Ask Redeemer, because people ask us questions. We go, well, it's probably more helpful than just giving this person the answer. Maybe more people need that answer. Why? The answers are there. That's what we're for. That's why we're here. So use us in that. We want to help you.

If you have questions, if that inner lawyer is like trying to make you an atheist or some friend is trying to do that, just know that's why we're here. You can submit a question on your connect card, drop it in the box, we'll get it and either we'll answer it personally if you leave your contact information or we'll do a whole podcast on it to not just help you, but anybody else watching. Just ask.

Now, verse 31, Jesus moves from declaring the truth about Himself to proving the truth about Himself. Look at verse 31. "If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true." Wait a minute, He just says His testimony is not true. And point number one is that everything Jesus said about Himself is true. Which one is it, preacher? Well, listen. He's certainly not saying, Hey guys, jokes on you. I was joking about everything I just said. Tricks. It's all false. That's not what He's saying. So what is He saying? Take a look at the text again. Did you notice that little word, alone? Do you see that? If I alone bear witness about myself. What's He doing?

In Jewish law, a charge against someone had to be established on the basis of what? Two or three witnesses. So He is not saying that everything He said so far is false, but He is saying everything He's said so far is not sufficient. It's not valid if He alone says it, He needs witnesses. And since He wants these men to be saved, He offers proof for what He's been saying.

And starting here, Jesus begins to give, really, one witness, the only witness that really matters, which is the witness of the Father. In other words, if Jesus said it, the Father agrees because He only ever says what the Father says. Now that should just settle it, but God gives proof. Look at verse 32. "There is another who bears witness about me. And I know that the testimony that He bears about me is true." Well, that another there is the Father. Some of your Bibles even have a capital H. They capitalize the pronoun there to show He's talking about the Father. So He's saying the Father's given proof that Jesus is true in everything He said about Him. In verse 32, Jesus knows it's true. He's clear that the Father says everything that's true. That may not be enough for them. That's enough for Jesus.

But listen, the Father proves that Jesus is equal with Him, gives evidence of that, His testimony. That should have been enough for them, that's what He's saying. Verse 32. But it should also be good enough for who? For us. So point #2) ***Recognize God has proven that Jesus' words are fact. Point number two, recognize God has proven that Jesus' words are fact.*** In other words, God and His grace does not say to rebels, believe it because I said so. He could've done that. He could've been writing that He has the authority to do that. He is God and that would be on us if we didn't listen. However, in His mercy, He gave evidence. He gave proof. He's given us proof that what Jesus said and did is fact. It is true. He gives the accurate understanding of reality. All understandings of reality that disagree with what Jesus said is not only, not fact, not only not true, not only false, but it's also an attack on God's character.

Listen to the way that John puts it in the letter that he wrote. First John 5:9 says this. "If we receive the testimony of men", which means we listen to other people, they say stuff and we receive that as true." If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater." That's obvious. God says something, it's obviously greater than any human being. "For this is the testimony of God that He has borne concerning His son." And then he takes a slight detour and says, "Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself." Translation. If you believe in Jesus as the Son of God, then you agree with God. You have His testimony in yourself. You believe Him. He continues. "Whoever does not believe God has made Him a liar because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning His son. And this is the testimony." Now, he comes back. "This is the testimony that God has given us eternal life and this life is in His son."

So to disagree with Jesus is to say, I don't need that. I don't want that. I'm not interested in that. That's just not like, I have a different answer to a math problem than you. No, that actually calls God a liar. Just like if you tell me something and I say to you, I don't believe you. What am I doing in that moment? I could be calling you a liar, right? That's the idea. People like Jews and Muslims and many others like to think they have God while rejecting Jesus. That's impossible.

You can't have that. That doesn't happen. If God has given proof that Jesus' words are fact, that He is equal with God because He's God's son, that eternal life is only found in Him, then to build a system that disagrees is not only to be wrong, but it's also calls the only God there is a liar. Because the only God there is put his seal of approval in only one place, on Jesus.

This is God's testimony that He has given eternal life to those who believe in His son, the Lord Jesus Christ. And if God has given a testimony, that means God has not been silent. You ever talk to anybody that's like, you know what, God, He wound up the universe and went away. He's not active, He's not involved. He's hiding. He's on vacation. He's keeping Himself from all of us.

I remember hearing about an atheist. Someone asked him, well, no, what would happen when you die and you stand before God? What would you say about Him? And he would say to Him, not enough evidence. Wrong answer, wrong answer. God has given proof in nature, in history, even in our consciences, God's law written on our hearts. There's so much evidence, so much clarity on the evidence in fact that all humanity is without excuse. Romans 1:20. Now Jesus is saying here, add to all of that, the witness that He has given about me, that I am the son of God. God has made Himself known so that He's clearly seen by all of us. Not that there is some God out there, but that the God of the Bible is the one true God. That's clear. And add to that what He has said through Christ, what He has said in the Bible about Christ.

Now, we may not like what we know about Jesus. We may push that aside in the hope that the God who is there is really kind of a God more to our liking. But God's not like Play-Doh. Just kind of turn Him into whatever we want, just like you and I aren't Play-Doh, kind of turn us into whatever we want. We're particular people and so is God.

Here's the thing too. He told us the truth about Himself, about Jesus, about ourselves, reality, everything that we need to be saved. We either give into what He says, we believe in Jesus or we call this God a liar by rejecting what He says about Jesus in His word. And for some of you, it's not like I think God is silent and not there and walked away, but I feel that way. I feel that He's not there. Listen, your feelings were never meant to tell you what's true. Your feelings are there to respond to the truth. They come after knowledge. So you don't feel something is true, we know something is true and God has given us the knowledge of the truth in His word. Jesus put it this way, John 17:17, that God's word is "truth". And He also said in John 8:32, that the truth will, what, will set you free. Set you free from your sin, set you free from deception, set you free from your excuses, set you free from whatever it is that keeps you from Him. So recognize God's not dead. He's not hiding. He's not on vacation.

In words of Francis Schaffer, He is there and He has not been silent. He has spoken. And in His speaking, He has given testimony, He's given proof, evidence to the fact that Jesus is equal to Him. And everything Jesus said and did is true. And recognize this, recognize that the only God there is has done this for your good. He's done it to dispel your doubts. He's done it to give you truth. He's done it because He doesn't want you to be dominated by lies. He's done it so that you would rid yourself of the lies and that you would come to Him and embrace the truth. He's done it so you will come to Christ. And after coming to Christ to be saved, you would love and serve

Christ for the whole of your life, faithful to the very end no matter what happens. Why, because it's all true. True. That's why.

Now, the first proof that Jesus brings forward of the Father's witness is John the Baptist. Look at verse 33. You sent to John, so this is the Father now, his ultimate witness, first coming through, John the Baptist. "You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light." So what has John, the author, already told us that John the Baptist has said about Jesus? Well, in John 1:23 it says about John that he was prophesied by Isaiah 700 years before to a voice crying in the wilderness to make the way, to clear a path for the Lord. So whoever comes on the scene after John is the Lord.

Well, he identifies Jesus as Lord, which means that Jesus is both king and God. That's the divine name. John the Baptist calls Jesus the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. For Him to take away the sin of the world, He has to make a seemingly infinite sacrifice. The only way He could do that is what, is if He is God. He said Jesus is greater than he is. And the proof he gives her that in John 1:30 is that Jesus existed before Jesus was born. How's that possible, because Jesus is eternal. That too is a characteristic of God. And then in chapter one, verse 34, John the Baptist calls Jesus the Son of God, which is another statement about Jesus' deity. Over and over again, this was John's message.

In verse 33, Jesus says, notice, you sent to John. You sent a delegation to go interview him. You were there when he was saying these things about me. You know what he said, thousands were there going to be baptized by him. Thousands saw him as a prophet. Many of these guys saw him as a prophet. That's why, verse 35, they rejoiced in his light. They see him as God is speaking through him. That's what a prophet is. It's making his appeal to people through John the Baptist. Now, Jesus says verse 34, he doesn't need John's testimony about who He is. He doesn't need that, He has the Father's. But end of verse 34, again, why does he bring John the Baptist up? Someone they know, someone they think is a prophet, someone who has credibility with them. Why would he bring them up? Notice, because I want you to be saved.

By the way, verse 35 where it says, John the Baptist was a lamp, that may mean that John the Baptist's ministry was already over, and it may mean that he was already executed. Now, the reason I think that really might be the case is if you notice chapter six starts with the feeding of the 5,000. You see that there in chapter six? Well, when you find the feeding of the 5,000 in Matthew 14 and in Mark chapter six, what you find is that in both cases, Matthew 14, Mark six, the death of John the Baptist is right before that. Just like these words are right before the feeding of the 5,000. Which means when you put those texts together, this conversation in John chapter five may be taking place around the same exact time that John the Baptist was either imprisoned or imprisoned and executed.

And he's saying, you remember his ministry? You remember how much you benefited from that? Notice to, they rejoiced, it says. The word means they were ecstatic, they were overjoyed

because of his ministry. But notice verse 35, it was only what? For a while. It was only for a while. These men ignored what they heard from John the Baptist. He was a lamp. He was showing people the way to Christ. And Jesus is saying, you were ecstatic about his ministry. You were ecstatic about what he was saying, but you missed the entire point, which was me. Well, if Jesus' words are fact, and God has proven Jesus' words to be fact, and he did that first through a preacher named John the Baptist, then point #3) ***Receive the truth about Jesus from faithful preachers. Receive the truth about Jesus from faithful preachers.***

Instead of walking away from the truth, after enjoying the preaching, these guys enjoyed the ministry of John the Baptist. Instead of that, receive the truth. The worst thing you can do is know the story of Jesus and emulate the men who put Him on the cross. No, the religious leaders are here in the text to show us what not to do, not to follow them, not to do what they do. We should do the opposite of them, which means that when we hear the truth, we shouldn't ignore it and walk away. We should receive it. There are a ton of preachers out there, and I know you know that, but a preacher is only a faithful preacher when they preach and teach the truth, which is the Bible. And instead of pointing to ourselves, First Corinthians 12:6, we are to speak the truth even if it causes people to become our enemies. Galatians 4:16, we're to speak the truth.

When the truth comes out of our mouths, Second Corinthians 4:2, it commends us to every man's conscience. That's what I hope happens every week, that we lift up the truth of God's word. We hear the truth, we see the truth in the text, and that truth is then pressed down onto our consciousness, onto our minds, and then through the preaching, we're to know love and do the truth. Well, if you're hearing the truth from faithful preachers, whether that's here or if this is your home church or wherever you call home as your church, wherever that is, if you listen, if you hear the word, don't be like these men, fickle, take it or leave it, ignoring what God is saying in His word. Don't do that. Instead, receive the truth. Embrace the truth. Stop fighting against the truth. Submit to the truth when the preacher is faithful to the truth.

You do realize that one of the greatest gifts that God can give you is a faithful church with faithful pastors who teach and counsel and encourage and even confront you with the truth, right? Now, I know that sounds self-serving, but listen, that's Ephesians 4:11, that pastors and teachers, it says there that they're gifts of God's grace to us. And what I'm trying to do with this is I'm trying to think about this moment. I'm trying to put myself in this moment. What is He doing with these guys that day? He's saying to them, I know you want to kill me right now, but God has given you truth about me. It's not just me saying this. You know John the Baptist said this about me too and it's a gift of God's grace, but you ignored it. You saw yourself clearly in the light of truth and you know you need to come to me, but you walk away.

Don't follow the examples of these men who rejected Christ. Whatever it is that God wants you to do in response to His word today, receive it from me and do it. No more of the excuses. We're about to take communion in a second. Jeremiah will come up here and lead us. Whenever we do this, we encourage people who aren't Christians not to eat the cracker, not to drink the juice. If you do, First Corinthians 11 says, you're drinking judgment onto yourself. Because why, because

you're showing with your actions, I'm a Christian, when really you're not. Well, if that's you, you've heard the truth about Jesus today. You've heard it from me, and I'm likely not the first preacher that you've heard this from. By now, you've heard everything you need to know to be saved from your sins. The only thing that's left is for you to receive Christ.

Jesus is Lord. He will save you from the punishment you deserve for your sins. So receive Him. Come to Him, look to Him. Believe in Him. Enough with the, I'm not sure or not today, or I want to sin. I want to live my life more. Maybe tomorrow. What will so and so think? I've been hurt by Christians. Whatever the excuses are, whatever excuses you can think of, reject those excuses just like the men in this text should have done. Don't be like them, ignoring the truth and rejecting Christ. Today is the day. Today is the day. Talk to God now, talk to me before you leave. Think about it. People, stand up. Jesus, if you are there, come down here right now and I'll believe in you. He did that. He was there that day. He did come down and He did speak, and these men rejected it. You have all the proof, all the evidence that you need. You've heard the truth. Today is the day to receive the truth and be saved. Let's pray.

Jesus, it's hard not to see the absolute ocean of grace in the middle of this text. Men who were probably looking at you with disdain, rolling their eyes, shaking their fists, maybe screaming, prove it. Who do you think you are? Blasphemer. And yet there you are in the middle of it, saying the things that you're saying so that they may be saved. The amount of grace and mercy and compassion for sinners in this text is massive. And yet now, today, that grace is not localized to one person like it was that day. Now, you speak all over the world. You speak through faithful preaching of your word, which means that you've been preaching here today too, exposing the truth about yourself so that people would receive it. That's what John says, to all who received you, who believed in your name, you gave the right to become God's children. So please use this truth to overcome all resistance, all excuses, and finally, receive this truth and be saved. And for the rest of us, please use this word to equip us to talk to our friends and family who need you and use this truth to draw us closer to you. Whatever it may be, whatever truth it is that you want us to receive and do in response to this message, give us the grace and the conviction to do it all for the glory of your wonderful name. Amen.