

## January 19

**John 5:22-23 (NIV)** <sup>22</sup>Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,<sup>23</sup> that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

Several years ago, we were looking for a good used car. We had traveled to the city because of the wide selection, but finding a good, honest dealer was a chore. We saw an ad from a major dealership saying they had just opened a Christian Used Car Section. That caught our attention, so we headed that way. We both commented how nice it would be to shop for a car in peace without shifting sales gimmicks. When we arrived, we told the salesman we were there because they stated they were a Christian organization. We visited for a short while before looking for a car. We expected to hear their best price with no hidden gimmicks and the best offer for our car. Unfortunately, we found ourselves in the same back-and-forth as usual. The prices kept changing as options changed. That experience was worse than any other because we were drawn by the “Christian” label.

That experience taught us that many will gather in the name of Jesus’ without gathering WITH Him. People, groups, politicians, and businesses can use Jesus’ name to create the perception that all interactions would be guided by the Lord. We learned at that car dealership that gathering in His name was not always the same as gathering in His presence. As that truth hit me, I realized that there were times when I was just as guilty. There were times when I was a Christian in name only because I was still following my own path. When we use God’s Word to correct someone or to win an argument but do not live that word, we are gathering in His name but not WITH Him. It is true that the name of Jesus can draw people to us. However, it is only His presence that can change us. When we honor Him, He will abide with us.