

## God's testimony of Jesus – Part6

### **John 5:31-47 (NIV)**

I encourage you to read John 5:31-47 again, and then continue on part six of this message, “Jesus’ authority as the Son of God.”

Let us continue...

Jesus’ condemnation of the Jewish opponents plays a key role in the Gospel’s message in its original setting. These opponents viewed themselves as the true children of God, check John 8:41, an identity based on their being disciples of Moses, check John 9:28 and children of Abraham, check John 8:39.

Some Jewish sources go so far as to say that having faith in Moses “is the same as having faith in Him who spoke and the world came into being” check Exodus 14:31. Thus, the issue of who really understands Moses and receives his teaching is part of the deeper issue of who is truly a child of God. This is the issue at stake between the Christians and their Jewish opponents late in the first century.

The implications of our text for today are both comforting and challenging. That Jesus is the final and ultimate revelation of God by which we may judge all other revelation gives Christians confidence. The witnesses to Jesus mentioned in this text are all still available to us: The witness of the Old Testament is obviously still present, but so is the witness of the Baptist and the Words and works of Jesus. The latter three come to us in the New Testament, not least in the Gospel of John.

In addition, Christians have the witness of the Holy Spirit, who has enabled the Church to understand the revelation of God in Jesus, check John 14:26; 15:26; 16:12-15. Faith in Jesus gives confidence, joy and peace because of who He is – the unique Son of God, equal with God.

Such a teaching also challenges us in several ways. In our ecumenical environment some would challenge the exclusiveness of Jesus’ claims. They would attribute the strong language to the polemical setting of his confrontations with the Jewish opponents or to John’s similar confrontations later in the first century. Certainly hatred between Jews and Christians is to be denounced. But the claims of Jesus’ divinity, His unique primacy (the fact of being primary preeminence or of greater importance; priority, superiority, supremacy, dominance, dominion, and leadership), as the Son of God, continues to divide us. This is not a secondary matter; it is the heart of the Gospel.

This text is also challenging to Christians on another level. For those who accept the primacy and uniqueness of Jesus there is no place for smugness (excessive pride in oneself or one's achievements). The New Testament, especially 1John, bears abundant witness that those who claim to believe in Jesus may themselves be alienated from God.

Our great need is for God Himself. We should rejoice in all that God gives us in Scripture, in the Church and in natural revelation. But to benefit from these gifts of God, we must be humble before God. We should pray constantly that God would correct our personal misperceptions (a wrong or incorrect understanding or interpretation) and enable us to see ever more correctly and directly the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, for the one immovable rock is Jesus Christ. He will be either one’s cornerstone or one’s stumbling block. He can only be accepted on His own terms or rejected.

What are the witnesses in our lives that have pointed us to Jesus as the Christ of God, the Son of the living God? Have we made the effort to hear and grasp the message of these four witnesses to Jesus, understanding the true significance of the Old Testament, John the Baptist and Jesus’ own words and works? Indeed, in this Gospel itself we have one of the greatest witnesses to Jesus, check John 15:27; 1John 1:1-4. May we receive the grace to benefit from His witness.

In closing, just want to remind you that the Bible says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever more. So let me tell you that no matter what storm or situation or circumstance you may be facing, no matter

what healing you may be needing, be it spiritual or physical sickness, disease and even sin, or the deliverance or miracle you may be needing, be encouraged to know that Jesus is the answer for it all and its cure - for He is the same even "Today!" Are you a person who needs a miracle and the healing touch of the Master, or do you know of people who do? Pray from this message you are encouraged to know that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow! Be it spiritual, physical or whatever the desperate need – Jesus has the cure for them all! He is the same healing God today! Understanding now that "Jesus heals" why not allow His healing anointing touch you or someone else who needs it right now? I encourage you to sincerely pray the prayer given below right now, truly meaning it from your heart, for the healing touch of Jesus is too good to be missed out in our lives.

**If you have not accepted God's plan of salvation and have not received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, then please sincerely repeat this prayer:**

Dear Lord Jesus, I accept the truths presented in the message above and understand my need to have You in my life. I believe You are the Son of God who died in my place and paid the price for my sins. I know that I am a sinner and hence I need You as my Savior and Lord. Please forgive me of all my sins and wash me clean with Your Precious Blood. I accept You Jesus as my personal Savior and Lord. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit and lead me from now on by your Holy Spirit to live a life pleasing and acceptable to You. I believe in my heart and confess with my mouth that You are now the Savior and Lord of my life. I believe that You have heard me and have accepted me as Your child and that I'm now a born again child of Yours! In Jesus name – Amen!

**If you have prayed this prayer, please do contact us so that we can help you get started in your Christian walk. Welcome to the family of God!**