

In The Beginning Was The Word

John 5:30-47

INTRODUCTION: JESUS CLAIMS TO BE THE SON OF GOD

In 721 B.C. the Northern Kingdom of Israel finally collapsed under the onslaught of the armies of Assyria. In 586 B.C. the Southern Kingdom of Judah fell to the Babylonian armies of Nebuchadnezzar and now these Jews also suffered a deportation to a foreign land. However, the Babylonian Empire declined quickly in the years that followed and its fall came in 539 B.C., brought about through the conquests of Cyrus the Great.

TODAY WE SHALL BE LOOKING AT THE SCRIPTURE :John 5:30-47

1. As we draw to a close on this chapter we have seen several miracles already that the Lord has performed.
2. The greatest of all miracles is when lives have been changed from unsaved to saved because of Jesus Christ our Lord.
3. There is no other way to be saved on this earth, and many people are failing to see that for themselves. The task has been given to the saved Christians to spread and speak the words of the Messiah the anointed one that the bible speaks of both in the OT and in the NT which we know is the Lord Jesus.

Acts 4:12¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

1. Let us as the bible says be the ones to bear the light and take it to shine into other people's lives who are not in a fortunate position as ourselves to know the gospel.
2. Both Peter and John seized the opportunities to talk with ordinary people about the Lords greatest gift and his greatest desire.

Acts 4:11-13

¹¹ This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

1. Whenever Gods Word is spoken people marvel at it for several reasons.
2. The greatest reason is that they cannot believe that it is so true and powerful.

3. People tend to believe the most ridiculous things before believing God at His Word. Like that of evolution, or even believing in themselves to be good people and deserving of a better place when they die. How ridiculous this is but it is true.

In John 5:30-47 we see a historical account of Jesus speaking to those kinds of people.

Most of them were Jews, but the conversation was the same to all of them.

In John 5:30. Jesus spoke of the fact that he could do nothing of himself independently of the Father, because all judgment was in accordance with His Fathers will and of the God head. This reveals His deity of God, and His equality with God the Father.

The fact is that Jesus is both a teacher and a Judge. When the Lord came he came as a teacher to fulfil the OT writings and to present Himself as the Messiah and saviour of the world. His teaching fulfilled the OT writings and now he was incarnate in the flesh for all to see that Gods will was being fulfilled in Him.

In verse 32, the Lord tells us of another person who is bearing witness of this testimony and that his testimony is true, because it bears witness of Him.

In verse 33, the Lord reveals that witness as John the Baptist.

In verse 34, the Lord tells the Jews and those present as well as us present today, that his testimony is not from man. In other words it is not mans testimony but as the Lord says in this verse that ³⁴ **But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.**

The words that the Lord spoke were His own words, they were not fabricated by man, and therefore they are true and perfect words. Words that we can rely on for our salvations sake.

It is not words made up by man how we can have salvation, but these are words of how many can have salvation because of GODS WORDS.

Too many people and too many false preachers are out there telling everyone how they can go to heaven, but these are not GODS WORDS and neither do they carry salvation message of surety.

When Jesus spoke to the Jews, as well as those that were present he knew that they were both in denial and he knew that they were not on the right road to salvation.

That is why he said what he said in verse 34 ³⁴ **But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.**

The Lord referred to John as one who has taken his sound and true words and was spreading the gospel for all to have salvation, and that is why we see the Lord backing him up in verse 32. ³² **There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.**

- Today there are very few churches and preachers even trying to hold on to sound doctrine. They have gone wayward for their own gain.
- The bible warns us to be of sound doctrine because it is important for our salvation in Christ alone.

2 Timothy 4:3³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

1. Today we see the modern church pursuing books and about how to feel good and develop that inner person within you to do better because you deserve it, and we see less and less in books that we are sinners in need of a saviour and deserve hell if we don't embrace the Lord.
2. It all about lifting your own spirit and not about being lifted by the Lord anymore.
3. The reason is books about sin don't sell!
4. This was the same mentality of the religious Jews. They tried to make their flesh perfect by themselves. 613 laws later they are still trying. Hence the Messiahs message at the time of verse 34.

In verse 35, the Lord speaks of their heart, the Jews present and those present as well as us today hear this same message of verse 35.

Here is that message: verse 35

1. Just as the Lord got off telling them about verse 34, which is John the Baptists salvation message of the Lord. They had started drifting again to their old ways.
2. The Lord talks about following for a season. A season is a period of time.

³⁵ He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

1. The Lord reminds the Jews and those present as well as us today the same thing. It never changes. There are always going to be these type of people with us.
2. The Lord said even though John was a burning and shining light, it took only a season or a period of time for you to stop rejoicing in that light.
3. The light he is referring to here is that light who is Jesus. When they saw John they rejoiced at the message but that is where is stopped. It was only a message to them and not the truth. They soon gave up following a way that was true to salvation to go back to their own ways of Galatians 3. (The shadows).
4. Jesus is now present repeating that same message. What were they to think now. And what was going to be their reaction. They could still repent and follow Him, but would they?. And would we continue to follow Him regardless.

There are a lot of people who sat in churches for may years but have sadly stopped following the light. Their season is over.

Then there is the false teacher with itching ears who has helped them to walk away other than the true gospel. Preachers who spread darkness rather than the light with their false messages and lack of repentance.

In verse 36, the Lord steps it up a notch for them. They had obviously heard this all before from John. But now the Lord has another message for them, which they have not heard before from John.

³⁶ But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

1. These were words that they had never heard before. What was in their minds when they heard that sentence coming out of the Lord Jesus mouth.
2. A man that claimed to be the Messiah. A witness from John who proclaimed Him to be the Lamb of God. And surely a Lamb He is.
3. This was to be the perfect Lamb that God His Father had sent to pay for the sin of man.

This was to be the greater witness than what John could bring, but it was the witness of what John was telling them about. This was a direct account from the OT.

Isaiah 53

¹ Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

² For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

1. Any which way you read this scripture you realise who Jesus is.
2. But with blinded eyes the Jews even to this day, think that it is Hezekiah who would come to save their city. The veil is still upon their head and they cannot and do not want to see the light.

In the NT we see the Messiah as the Lord Jesus who was sacrificed by the God the Father for our sins.

1 John 4:10 ¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 3:25 ²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

1. There are many verses in the bible but here are 2 of those verses which speak of the Father giving His Son for a justification of our sin.
2. Had the Lord not paid the price we certainly would if we do not know Jesus Christ as God our own Lord and saviour.
3. However many do not.

There works here in verse 36 of our text is the reference to His crucifixion for the justification of mans sin as we just spoke about.

This was evident and fulfilled in that event that he spoke of as we read in Luke 23:32-33

³² And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death.

³³ And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

Verse 37, This act of crucifixion was a witness of God the Father sending His Son.

1. It was also a witness of Jesus obedience to His Fathers will.
2. He did not act out on His own will.
3. The greatest damnation of this verse is the fact that Jesus tells the unbelieving Jews and those present that they have not believed Johns message and neither His message.

4. The clarity of this subject is bought about when Jesus says the following words to them.

³⁷ And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

1. This is a message directed only to those present that Jesus was addressing and those to follow afterwards.
2. This was not an address to those who did hear his voice as we spoke about in a previous message in John 1:16-28.
3. This message her was a reference to SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS. If you are spiritual blind you cannot see, even if the person is in front of you. You have rejected John the Baptist.
4. But now that you have seen me Jesus says, you are SPIRITUALLY BLIND. You cannot even HEAR what I am saying is the point.
5. These people could not see God and hear the voice of GOD even though He was standing in front of them and speaking to them.
6. That's spiritual blindness.
7. They had a SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS and a SPIRITUAL DEAFNESS even when Jesus said to them you have neither heard His Father or seen Him at any time.

The reasons why they had not heard His voice or seen His shape is because of the following. John 5: verses 38-47.

- These scolding verses from Jesus is a reference to their Blindness of unbelief.

⁸ And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

1. The Jews don't have His word abiding in them.
2. The Jews don't believe in Jesus.
3. They don't believe despite God sending His Son Jesus Christ.

³⁹ Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

1. The Jews were told to search the scriptures. It was to be their saving grace, and also a time to make right in their belief and understanding of the Lords arrival.
2. The Jews were also told to search the scriptures because they were too complacent in thinking that they already knew the scriptures and that they were already righteous with God and did not need a savior.
3. The Lord pointed out to the Jews that they thought they had eternal life when it was in fact not the case.
4. The Lord also pointed out to the Jews that the scriptures in the OT were testifying of Him. The NT had not even been written at this time.

⁴⁰ And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

1. The Lord pointed out to them all that they were not even prepared to come to Him in order to have eternal life.
2. It showed the hardness of their hearts that the Lord had revealed.

41 I receive not honour from men.

1. The Lord told the Jews that He did not receive honor from men.
2. The reason was because they were honoring men above the Lord.
3. The Lord was stating that His honor was because he was God and came from the presence of the Father.
4. Again this shows his deity.
5. The Lord does not entertain the foolishness of men.

➤ The bible tells us that God is not mocked; he is no respecter of persons.

Galatians 6:7 ⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Acts 10:34 ³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

1. The Lord reminds the Jews in one sentence.
2. He told them that he knew them. That meant that he knew them all.
3. This was God talking to man. God knows everything man has ever done and this was no exception.
4. The most concerning thing that the Lord had against them, was not how they were conducting their social lives, but it was deeper than that.
5. The deepest concern the Lord had for them was **ye have not the love of God in you.**
6. The Lord was reminding them of the greatest concerns in life and that was the first commandment in the OT. (Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.)
7. So how could they have said that they knew the OT.
8. In the NT we see the same thing concerning the commandment.

Mark 12:29-31 ²⁹ And Jesus answered him, *The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:*

³⁰ *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*

³¹ *And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

9. The Lord had identified their weak spot and that was that they really did not love God even though they said so.

43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

1. Jesus told the Jews He came in His Father's name but they rejected him.

2. The Jews saw only the Father as God and not Jesus. That's why they rejected Him.
3. The Jews never rejected anyone else who came to talk about any religion even if it was pagan. We see this in the Book of Acts 17.
4. Later in Acts 17:23 we see the Apostle Paul preaching on Mars Hill to the Epicureans and Stoics who prayed to all Gods and even those they did not even know.

44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

1. The Lord points out to the unbelieving Jews that it is not possible to believe on the conditions that they had set for themselves.
2. They had been seeking honor one from another but discounted the Lord.
3. The Lord had told them because of the fact they do not receive the honor that comes from God ONLY, that it was not possible for them to believe.
4. In other words the Lord was telling them that God had rejected them, and they did even know that. It took our Lord to tell them that bad news.
5. But did they care about that news – NO.

45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.

1. As the Lord spoke to the Jews and of course those close listeners, even as he speaks through His word to us today.
2. People are condemned right from the beginning of the bible of God's Word.
3. Jesus told the Jews and I am referring here also to those present there, that it was not necessary for Him to accuse them before the Father, because they had already been accused.
4. That accuser as the Lord tells them is Moses. Their great spiritual leader through Gods Word has already accused them. All that Moses had written in the OT stands today to accuse the Jews, because even Moses had written about Jesus the Messiah.
5. The wakeup call from Jesus was the fact that they had been accused by Moses.
6. Moses was their spiritual father in whom they had put in all their trust just as the Lord told them.

John 1:45 ⁴⁵ Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me.

1. The Lord reminds them of Moses testimony, because Moses was prophet in whom they all trusted and respected vehemently.
2. Their problem was that they did not believe Moses and Jesus highlighted it to the Jews.

47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

1. The question from Jesus to them was. If you did not believe Moses writings, when you say that you did and still do. Then how is it possible that you believe not me in whom Moses writes?
 2. What a question to bring forth their unbelief, and what a question to expose them for who they really are "sinner caught up in unbelief".
 3. The ultimate plan of the Lord was to seek and to save that which is lost as we learnt earlier in the scriptures. (Luke 19:10).
- Moses wrote in Gen 3:15 about the coming of the Lord.
 - Genesis 12:3
 - **Genesis 18:18**
 - Genesis 22:18
 - Genesis 49:10

Genesis 3:15 ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

1. The writings (scriptures of Moses in Genesis alone are sufficient to condemn the Jews.
2. They are also sufficient to condemn any unbeliever.

PRAYER.....CLOSE