

Self defense Pt.2

John 5:31-47

ILL. When a witness is summoned to the court but refuses to testify, he is held in contempt by the judge. When you stand before Jesus Christ, he will hold you in contempt of court because you refused to testify.

We have been called to give a defense of the gospel; Paul writes young Timothy to **“Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (II Tim.4:2)** we have been given the task to bear witness of Christ

Introduction
Jesus is giving a defense for the healing of the paralytic by the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath. Last week we looked at his personal defense, this week we will look at the public defense of who he is. His defense strategy from verse 16 - 47 was 3 fold, first he claimed to be equal with God, second he claimed to have authority over death and this morning there are others who will bear witness he is the son of God. We find 4 witnesses in these closing verses.

READ John 5:31-47 PRAY

I. John the Baptist witness of Christ John 5:31-35

ILL. eye witnesses are used in a court of law. When there is a trial they ask if there are any witnesses? They used to put their hand on a bible and the bailiff would ask them a question ‘Do you swear to tell the truth the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?’ John is a truthful witness and has given a truthful defense.

A. John witness of Jesus is true (31-33)

31 “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. 32 There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. 33 You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.

1. Jesus is not going to bear witness of himself - he will leave that to others

- Jesus did not bear witness of himself because he knew they would not believe him.
- To the religious leader Jesus' witness (testimony) was not true in their estimation. (they would have objected to His claim)
- In Jewish law a self testimony of one man is not validated or accepted in court.
- Scripture states we need two or three witnesses to bring validity. (Deut.17:6;19:15)

2. John the baptist is the true witness

- John the baptist mission was to bear witness of Jesus (chapter 1 reveals that)
- “He is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world”.
- Jesus will have multiple people throughout his ministry bearing witness of him.
- He is a true witness (John the Baptist) - he is the truth bearer.
- John's role as prophet was to share about who Jesus is.
- John is the forerunner of Christ.
- 400 hundred years of silence was broken by the introduction of Jesus by John.

B. John witness is for the salvation of all (34,35)

34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

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

1. Regardless of what men say - doesn't take away from the fact that Jesus is God

- Mens testimony doesn't take away from Jesus mission
- His mission was to save that which was lost.
- The Christmas story was the beginning of a rescue mission.

2. John was a bright light for the moment

- He was a light in a dark time (he brought great joy to the people)
- His ministry was attracting people (light attracts people)
- John had a season of ministry (his preaching and baptism in the desert, his introduction to Jesus, his confrontation of Herod and his imprisonment)
- People were blessed by his ministry till his martyred death. (witness)

3. We are called to do the same to bear witness of Jesus to others

- The word **witnessed** is used 25 x in 18 VS. in the gospel of John (key word)
- The word witness means to give a good testimony - to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because taught by divine revelation or inspiration.
- We are the John the Baptist of the day - we are to be his witnesses - **Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**
- **We are to be the bright light in the darkness -**
- **But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; (I Peter 3:15)**

II. The miracles bear witness of Jesus John 5:36

Carmelo story - mission trip (book of Acts) - Las Vegas - old warrant - Brent took to home - left on Sunday night - retried Tuesday - miracle - Jesus is a miracle worker today.

A. Jesus works validate who he is (36)

36 But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

1. I have something even greater than John witness, it's my miracles (John testimony not the greatest proof)

- My miracles (wedding at Cana, Noble man, paralytic) all speak of my power and position.
- Speaking to religious leaders **“I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. John 10:25**

- God the Father gave him the ability to do miracles. Speaking to Philip Jesus said **“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.” (John 14:10,11)**
- Luke the author of acts says **Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested (publicly endorsed) by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know. Acts 2:22**

B. God the father sent him and used miracles as proof of his deity. (notice works is plural)

- He will heal the sick, the blind and the lame. (acts of compassion and mercy)
- He will cast out demons
- He will raise the dead and calm the storms.
- The greatest miracle is going to be the resurrection. (his ultimate work to accomplish)
- Nicodemus (John 3) came to some resolution of who Jesus was **““Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”** (these miracles were seal /stamp of approval from the father)

APP. - How do you explain the work of miracle in the lives in this room?

- What miracle is he doing daily in your lives? Physical, emotional and spiritual.

III. God the Father bears witness of Jesus. John 5:37,38

ILL. Validation is often sought after - some find it through education by getting a diploma, by their job and how much money they are validated by how many things they have. Some seek it through a simple like button on a facebook page. The only validation that will really matter when it is all said and done, is the one we will hear when we are in the presence of God - Welcome good and faithful servant. God the father knew the importance of validating his son for the work he was called to do.

A. Jesus adds the father to the resume of witnesses (37)

37 And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

1. The father testifies of the son

Peter reminded us that **“For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (II peter 1:17)**

- two times God the father validated Jesus - this is my son in whom i am well pleased
- We see it at his baptism
- We see it at the Mt of transfiguration

2. The religious leaders didn't hear him

- Harden heart hinder listening ears

- Hebrews 3:7-9 **“Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years.”**
- Religious leaders didn't see his work or know his truth.

B. Jesus bear witness of the religious leaders unbelief (38)

38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

1. He is calling out the religious leaders for not taking his message and messenger seriously.
 - They should have believed in Jesus because God gave them the word of God to believe.
 - We have been gifted as a nation with God's word and we have failed to see the reality of who Jesus is and that the father has sent him.
 - Jesus said in the last days there will be drifting and falling away from the faith.
 - The seed is falling on poor soil, rough and rocky ground.
 - The cause of unbelief is a disconnect from his truth - his word.

IV. The word bears witness of Christ John 5:39-47

ILL. The movie “The Book of Eli” starring Denzel Washington (eli) is an apocalyptic story about a man who was on a journey. He had the only bible in the whole world and needed to get it to a safe destination. There is the villain in the story by the name of Carnegie who has been pursuing the bible, not for spiritual reason, but to use it to gain power over the people, for selfish gain. The twist in the story, is he does eventually get the book and open it up only to discover it written in brail, Eli continues the journey - get to his destination and because he has abided in it, he has it memorized - he is able to dictate the content to make a transcript of the scripture.

God had given his word to the jewish nation, the religious leaders, through the prophets, but because of the hardness of heart they couldn't see Jesus as the coming messiah and worship the law, thinking their good works would be enough for the promise of paradise.

A. You hold onto the law for salvation (39)

39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

1. Problem - you read for information not transformation

- Search (GRk) means to examine it or to track a scent
- You think by being religious (by working harder) you will get the prize of life.
- They worship the word of god the author of the word of God. (knowledge puffs up)
- They were knowledgeable and still dead in faith.
- Today are you reform or armenist in theology are you pre-trib or post-rib. You heard me this morning and have no understanding of what I am talking about. And people argue over these matters.
- We can get caught up in theological matter we can miss the purpose of scripture - which is building up our love for gid and others.

2. The scripture testifies who I am - and you missed it.

- The scripture testify of me
- Your head is the scripture you missed that they are about me - and you didn't see me in the scripture. (there was a disconnect between what they read and who they worshiped)
- ILL. Remember - wise men came to Herod looking for the king of the Jews - Herod was troubled so he gathered all the chief priests and scribes and they asked them if it was true and they quoted Micah 5:2 - they knew the truth but they did not seek the truth - they did not seek out Jesus.

3. Yes we are to study the scripture

- the purpose to know God's heart and plan for us as his people.
- We are to abide in His word - rest in it - it is a relational investment.
- The study of God's word is to give us burning love for God not a big head for knowledge.

B. You do not practice love 40-44

40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. 41 “I do not receive honor from men. 42 But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. 43 I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. 44 How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God?

1. You lack love because you don't know the author of love (40,41)

- Jesus said I came to my own and my own did not receive me.
- Didn't believe or receive me (John 1:12) not willing to put your trust in me.
- Jesus' identity was not found in the praise of men.

2. You are absent of love (42)

- But I know you - ouch! I know what in you - (he knew their self-righteousness)
- If they did good then they were good with God - but they lacked love. (1 Cor. 13:1)
- You're fruitless - you do not bear the fruit of love - you are a tree that bears bad fruit.
- The purpose of the scripture is to develop our love for one another.
- Revelation - 7 churches - church of Ephesus - they did all the right thing and lacked love and God called them to repentance.

3. You dishonored God (43,44)

- I came and you dismissed me for others. (some have chosen Barabbas over Jesus)
- There is another coming that they will worship thinking he is the messiah (Antichrist)
- The religious leader honored themselves and put themselves above others.
- They were arrogant and self-righteous - Jesus rejected them and turned to the Gentile.
- “The humble I will exalt but the proud I will cast out”
- You rather seek the praise of men, then honor from God.
- Maybe they were afraid of the rejection of their friend when they were to follow Jesus.
- ILL. John 9 - (6th sign) blind man healed came to parents - asked who did this afraid to say it Jesus - kick out of synagogue. Religious tradition can be bondage.

C. You did not receive moses testimony (45-47)

45 Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

1. Moses represented the Law - they trusted the Law of moses. (45)

- The religious leaders worshiped moses and the law
- They put their trust in pentateuch (first 5 books of the Bible)
- They were disciples of moses. (Jn.9:28)
- What they didn't realize was that Moses was going to be their judge, not their savior.
- Whether you realize it or not you're being disciplined into something.

2. Moses wrote of the coming messiah (46,47)

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman,And between your seed and her Seed;He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Exodus 12;1-28 Passover lamb - preview of what is to come

Deuteronomy 18:15,18 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,...'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him."

- If you don't believe moses writing you women believe in me.
- Jesus was a completion of the law.
- All the law could do is point out our sin, what Jesus could do as the living word is make provision for the forgiveness of our sin.

Conclusion

1. John the Baptist witness of Christ

2. The miracles bear witness of Jesus

3. God the Father bears witness of Jesus.

4. The word bears witness of Christ