

Sermon Title: Why Jesus Only: Because He is Equal with God in Testimony

Sermon Text: John 5:31-47

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a clear understanding of the path of salvation.

Sermon Proposition: There are 5 witnesses to the uniqueness of Jesus as the only way of salvation.

Introduction: Testimonies by witnesses were to establish the truthfulness of a matter. The key to this section is John 5:40, the unwillingness of man to believe no matter how much truth is presented.

(John 8:43-47; John 12:37-40)

Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

People struggle with the foreknowledge of God, the predestination of God, and the election of God. None of these issues are the problem. Hell and future condemnation is a result of people's unwillingness to believe, it is not the cause.

- I. The testimony of the one. Vv. 31-32
- II. The testimony of the prophet. Vv. 33-35
- III. The testimony of the Son's work. V. 36
- IV. The testimony of the Father. Vv. 37-38
- V. The testimony of the Scriptures. Vv. 39-47

- I. The testimony of the one. Vv. 31-32

The biblical requirement of multiple witnesses established. V.31

Deuteronomy 17:6 "Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

Deuteronomy 19:5 "as when a man goes to the woods with his neighbor to cut timber, and his hand swings a stroke with the ax to cut down the tree, and the head slips from the handle and strikes his neighbor so that he dies-- he shall flee to one of these cities and live;

Numbers 35:30 "Whoever kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the testimony of witnesses; but one witness is not *sufficient* testimony against a person for the death *penalty*.

2 Corinthians 13:1 This *will be* the third time I am coming to you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."

The thought of this section moves from that of Jesus' equality and unity with the Father, to that of the testimony of witnesses that validate Jesus as the Son of God, therefore the only way of salvation.

Jesus affirmed that He did not seek an independent self-authentication. He was content to submit to the Father's will (v.30) and let the Father and other witnesses authenticate Him.

- II. The testimony of the prophet. Vv. 33-35

John the Baptist's function was that of a witness. A good witness tells the truth as he knows it. John's witness of Jesus had an abiding character (has testified in the Greek is the perfect tense). John's ministry helped point the Jews from their darkness to the light. His work was so people could be saved, and was to point them to means of their salvation, Jesus the Lamb of God.

John 1:7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

Matthew 3:1-2, 8 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, **2** and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" ... **8** "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

Matthew 3:10-11 "And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **11** "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John was only a lamp, not the true light. An instrument for light to shine through, but not the light.

John 1:9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

III. The testimony of the Son's work. V. 36

The Jewish leaders and nation for a short time were stirred by and rejoiced in John's ministry. For a moment they thought and hoped the Messianic age was beginning. The works of the Messiah were prophesied in [**Isaiah 35:5-6** *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.*]. Jesus works were clear proof that God the Father was with Him and was working through Him. (**Mark 3:23-29**)

John 3:2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "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."

John 15:24 "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.

John 9:4 "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work.

John 10:25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.

John 10:37-38 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; **38** "but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father *is* in Me, and I in Him."

Matthew 13:54 And when He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this *Man* get this wisdom and *these* mighty works?"

IV. The testimony of the Father. Vv. 37-38

The Father Himself has testified concerning the Son.

1. Jesus Baptism - **Matthew 3:17** And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
2. Jesus Transfiguration - **Matthew 17:5** While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"
3. Jesus Triumphal Entry - **John 12:28** "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, "I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again."
4. Jesus Signs and Wonders - **John 20:30-31** And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; **31** but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

5. Jesus work in people's hearts and minds
John 6:45 "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.
1 John 5:9-12 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. **10** He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. **11** And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.
Galatians 4:4-6 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. **6** And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

Because of their rejection of the message and the messenger, they provided clear evidence that God the Father and the Holy Spirit was not working in them.

V. The testimony of the Scriptures. Vv. 39-47

The Jewish religious leaders studied the Old Testament with great diligence. They were under the assumption that if one could clearly understand the words of a text, they would gain an inheritance or share of the world to come.

Jesus came in His first incarnation not to judge with final judgment, but as the Savior of humanity.

John 3:17-18 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **18** "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Therefore, it was unnecessary for Him to accuse them. Thus He brings in another witness, Moses, whom they claimed to believe and follow. Using the Scriptures written by Moses, He demonstrates how they had broken the covenants established, missed the Person to whom the Scriptures point to, thinking that salvation came by the good deed of keeping the law, but law condemned them.

If the Jews really believed Moses, then they would have believed, and believed in Jesus Christ. Moses wrote of the coming Messiah of Israel.

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."

Genesis 22:18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,
There were also the types that represented Christ, the Passover, the manna, the rock, the offering, and the high priesthood.

Luke 16:29-31 "Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' **30** "And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' **31** "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

John 12:41 These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.