

Gospel of John: That You Might Believe

"Bearing Witness" – April 11, 2021



Introduction

After Jesus healed the invalid on the Sabbath and made claims that made Him equal with God ([Jn. 5:18](#)) the religious leaders charged Him with blasphemy. Alongside Jesus' bold claims, Jesus offers compelling testimony that supports His claims. Why then do many still not believe?

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Three witnesses that testify to Jesus' identity ([5:31-43](#))
 - a. John the Baptist
 - b. Jesus' works
 - c. The Scriptures
- II. Seeking glory from others: the cause of unbelief ([5:44-47](#))

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [5:31-43](#)

John the Baptist was sent by God to fulfill the role of the one who'd 'Make straight the way of the Lord' as prophesied by Isaiah. As such, God sent him to bear witness about Jesus' identity. Take a moment to read [John 1:19-34](#). What did he say about Jesus?

In John's Gospel, Jesus' miracles are *signs* that point to who Jesus is. [John 12:37](#) says that despite all the miracles, they still didn't believe. Why are miracles not enough to create faith? What has John's gospel shown is necessary for us to see and believe?

Finally, Jesus holds up the Scriptures that testify about Him. Remember, their Bible at the time was the Old Testament. Read rightly, the Old Testament points us to Jesus: in its promises that point forward, in its types/shadows, and in the law that reveals our sin, our need, and the Savior ([Galatians 3:19-29](#)). How is it these religious leaders could search the Scriptures yet miss the point of Jesus? How should that shape the way we read Scripture today?

Additional Reading: Romans 3:19-26

- 2) Read [5:44-47](#)

Jesus indicts these leaders for refusing to come to Him (literally you don't *want* to) in v40, which raises the question: why don't they want to? Why would anyone refuse Jesus when all the evidence has piled up and He came to give life? The reason, v44 tells us, is that they sought the glory that comes from others, *not* the glory that comes from God.

The world says our value and significance is based on the opinion, acceptance and praise of others. Jesus says it is based on what God says of us. Why is it hard for us to believe Jesus and seek the glory that comes from God? Why is His glory better? What are ways you find yourself seeking human praise today?

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to 3 John "Support and Oppose"
