

“Testimony Of Truth”
John 5:31-40

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To John 5 - Where:
 - After Jesus Healed A Man:
 - On The Sabbath Day!
 - Starting In 5:17 - Jesus “Answers” The Religious Leaders:
 - And - Their Objections To Him:
 - For Doing Such A Work:
 - On The Sabbath!
2. And - In Jesus’ “Answer” - We Are Given:
 - A Glimpse Into The Mysterious, But Glorious Relationship:
 - Between God The Father:
 - And Jesus - As His Unique And:
 - Only Begotten Son!
 - And - From 5:17-24:
 - Jesus Deals Directly With:
 - The Question Of His Authority:
 - And - His Right:
 - To Do What He Did On The Sabbath!
 - And - He Asserted That:
 - He Had ***Every Right:***
 - To Do What He Did:
 - Because His Work:
 - Is The Same As God The Father’s Work!
 - 5:17-18 - “But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. / Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God!”
 - Then - From 5:25-30:
 - Jesus Deals With:
 - The Question Of His Ability:
 - And - His Power:
 - To Perform Such A Work & Miracle!
 - And - He Asserted That:
 - He Had ***All Power:***
 - To Do What He Did:
 - Because - Like The Father:
 - He Is Able To “Quicken Whom He Will!” (5:21)
3. Well - In The Verses We Come To Next:
 - From 5:31-40:
 - Jesus Deals With:
 - The Question Of His Affirmation:
 - And - The Proof That:
 - He Has The Authority & Ability:
 - To Work As He Did!
 - And So - In 5:31-32 - Jesus Adds:
 - “If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. / There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true!”
 - Now - The Claims That Jesus:
 - Made For Himself:
 - So Far In This Gospel:
 - Would Have Been Incredible:
 - For Just A Man!
 - And So - If He Alone & By Himself:
 - Made These Claims For Himself:
 - And They Were Not True:

- It Would Make Him - As C. S. Lewis Once Pointed Out:
- Either A Liar Or A Lunatic!

- But - If His Claims:
- Were True - Then He Must Be:
- And - He Can Only Be:
- The Lord Of All!

- And - For Jesus - He Knew That:
- "Another" Bore Witness Of Him!
- And - Jesus Was Content:
- With This Witness & Testimony:
- About Him!
- Because - As We Will See Shortly:
- This "Other" Witness:
- Was None Other Than:
- God, His Father, In Heaven!
- And - The Two-Fold Testimony Of Jesus & His Father:
- Was Enough To Satisfy Any Legal Requirement:
- Of His Claims!

4. But - The Joint Testimony:
- Of God The Father & God The Son:
- Wasn't Enough For The Jewish Leaders:
- In Jerusalem That Day!
- And So - Jesus Offered Them:
- And Us - Even More:
- Reliable Testimony About The Truth:
- Of His Claims!

- Three More Witnesses!
- A Human Witness!
- A Heavenly Witness! And:
- A Historic Witness!
- But - How Would They Respond:
- To This Testimony?
- What Would They Do:
- With Their Truth?
- Well - In 5:41 - Jesus Brings This Indictment:
- On Them - "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life!"
- In Other Words:
- They Did Not Receive:
- Their Testimony - And:
- They Would Not Believe:
- Their Truth!
- And - Their Own Sin & Stubbornness:
- Kept Them From:
- Coming To Christ:
- And Having The Life:
- He Came To Offer!

5. And - We Must Not Make:
- The Same Mistake!
- Even As Christians!
- Even If You Have:
- Received The Testimony Of Truth:
- That We Will Be Looking At:
- From These Verses:
- Why Do You Still Not Experience & Enjoy:
- The Fulness Of The Life:
- Christ Came To Offer You?

- Perhaps Its Because:
- You Too Are Not Fully Convinced:

- About The Authority & Ability & Affirmation:
 - Of Jesus Christ!
- And - You Need To:
 - Hear The Testimony Of These Witnesses:
 - Afresh!

* And So - Starting In 5:33-35 - Jesus Reminds Us About The Testimony Of:

1. A Human Witness!

- Even - The Witness Of John The Baptist!
 - 5:33-35 - “Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. / But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. / He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light!”
 - In These Verses - Jesus Tells Us That:
 - The Witness Of John The Baptist Was:
- A Good Witness!
 - He “Bore Witness Unto The Truth!”
 - And - The Jews Of That Day:
 - Knew About John’s Testimony:
 - About Jesus!
 - Back In Chapter 1:
 - They Had Even Sent Messengers:
 - To John - When He Was Baptizing:
 - In The Jordan River:
 - To Find Out Who He Was & What He Was Doing & Why!
 - And - If You Remember:
 - John First Told Them The Truth:
 - About Himself:
 - That He Was “Not The Christ!” (1:20)
 - But Then - He Told Them The Truth:
 - About Jesus!
 - And That He Was The “Son Of God!”
 - John Established Jesus’ Claims:
 - Even Before:
 - Jesus Came On The Scene!
 - And - His Witness Was A Good & Faithful Witness! **IE:** The Kind You’d Want To Testify In Court!
 - Also - It Was:
 - A Gracious Witness!
 - In 5:34a - Jesus Said:
 - “But I receive not testimony from man!”
 - In Other Words:
 - Jesus Did Not Need John’s Testimony:
 - For His Claims To Be Established!
 - The Witness Of John:
 - Was For Them & For Us!
 - Not For Him!
 - John The Baptist Was Sent:
 - 5:34b - “That ye might be saved!”
 - It Is Such A Gracious Thing:
 - That Jesus Knows Our Nature So Well:
 - And Our Tendency To:
 - Doubt & Distrust & Disbelieve:
 - The Truth - That He Gives Us “Many Infallible Proofs!”
 - So That - He Might Break Down:
 - The Walls Of Our Opposition:
 - To Him & The Truth:
 - So That We Might Be Saved!

- That Was True Then - With John The Baptist!
 - This Is True Today:
 - With Other Human Witnesses!
 - Did God Use The Testimony Of Another Christian:
 - To Bring You To Faith Or Even Greater Faithfulness To & Fervency For The Lord?
 - Hebrews 12:1 Tells Us That “We Also Are Compassed About With So Great A Cloud Of Witnesses!”
 - Praise God For Those Human Witnesses!
 - They Are God’s Grace To You:
 - “That You Might Be Saved!”
 - **IE:** And - You Can Learn So Much More:
 - About Jesus - From These:
 - Human Witnesses!
 - Living & Dead!
- But - Not Only Was John’s Witness:
 - A Good & A Gracious Witness! It Was Also:
 - A Gleaming Witness!
 - 5:35 - “He was a burning and a shining light!”
 - Back In Chapter 1:
 - We Learned That John Was:
 - “Not That Light!”
 - The Light Of Christ!
 - But Here - Jesus Calls John:
 - “A Burning & A Shining Light!”
 - What Did Jesus Mean?
 - Two Words Translated Light!
 - Here - John Is Described As:
 - A **Lamp** - Who Bore Witness To:
 - Jesus - Who Is The True **Light:**
 - “Which lighteth every man that cometh into the world!” (1:9)
 - But - Even Though John Was Just A “Lamp!”
 - What A Lamp He Was!
 - He Was “A Burning & A Shining Lamp!”
 - On The Inside:
 - He Burned!
 - With Great Zeal & Fervor & Intensity:
 - For Jesus! And:
 - On The Outside:
 - He Shined!
 - But - John Could Only Shine So Brightly To The Outside - Because:
 - He Burned So Intently On The Inside! And:
 - That Burning Within Cost & Consumed Him!
 - This Is Still The Kind Of Human Witness:
 - You Can Be For Christ!
 - “A Burning & A Shining Lamp!”
 - As You - Matthew 5:16 - “Let your light so shine before men!”
 - But - You Will Only Shine:
 - When You First Burn:
 - With The Same Kind Of Zeal For Jesus:
 - Within You!
 - Of Course - Jesus Doesn’t *Need* Your Witness!
 - But - He Can Certainly:
 - *Use* Your Witness - Even Powerfully:
 - Like He Used John!
 - But - You Need To Be Ready:
 - For How People Will Respond To You!
 - How Did They Respond To John?
 - 5:35b - “And ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light!”

- The Jews Were At First:
 - Intrigued & Even A Bit Excited:
 - At The Spectacle Of John The Baptist! **IE:** Wore / Ate!
- But - When They Were Personally Confronted By:
 - The Courage Of John!
 - The Call Of John! To Repent & Believe!
 - The Claims Of John! About Jesus!
 - That “Season” Of Rejoicing Didn’t Last Long! (Prison / Death)
- And - It Never Will:
 - If You Become “A Burning & A Shining Lamp” For Jesus!
 - But - What Happens When:
 - The Lights Of These Human Witnesses For Christ:
 - Grow Dim In This World?
 - Well - There Are Other Witnesses:
 - That Are Even More Bright & Enduring!
 - Even:

2. *A Heavenly Witness!*

- Which We Find In 5:36-38:
 - “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. / 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. / And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not!”
 - The Heavenly Witness:
 - That Testifies About The Truth Claims:
 - Of Jesus - Includes:
 - The **Works** Of God The Father - As Well As:
 - His **Words!**
 - In 5:36 - Jesus Tells Us That:
 - The Works Of God:
 - Testify To His Truth!
 - And - Those Works:
 - Are A Greater Witness:
 - Then Even John The Baptist!
 - 5:36 - “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!”
 - And - They Had Just Seen Him Do:
 - One Of Those Works!
 - Of Healing!
 - And His Works Testify To His Truth:
 - In A Full Way!
 - Because - They Are:
 - “The Works Which The Father” Gave Him “To Finish!”
 - God The Father Fully Entrusted Jesus:
 - To Do His Work:
 - In This World!
 - Also - His Works Testify To His Truth:
 - In A Final Way!
 - Because Those Same Works:
 - 5:36 - Jesus Was Doing!
 - All The Works Of Jesus:
 - In This World:
 - Are A Witness & A Testimony:
 - Of His Claims!
 - When He Created:
 - Water Into Wine!
 - When He Cleansed:
 - The Temple!

- When He Changed:
 - & Healed The Impotent Man!
- When He Called:
 - Men - To Believe & Follow Him!
- Even More To Come:
 - In The Gospel Of John!
- All Of These Works:
 - Confirm The Truth:
 - Of His Claims! But In Addition To:
 - His Works!
- In 5:37 - Jesus Again Tells Us That:
 - The Words Of God:
 - Testify To His Truth!
 - “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!”
 - This May Have Reference To:
 - The Father’s Witness Of Jesus:
 - At His Baptism!
 - As Recorded In Matthew 3:16-17:
 - “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: / And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!”
 - So - In Both A Visible & Audible Way:
 - God The Father Testified:
 - About Who Jesus Was!
 - What An Amazing Event!
 - God’s Voice Had Been Silent - And:
 - God’s Form Had Been Hidden:
 - For Generations!
 - But - When Christ Came:
 - A Heavenly Voice & Vision Came To Them:
 - In A Fresh New Way!
- But - How Did The Jews Respond?
 - 5:37b-38 - “Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape! / And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not!”
 - What Sad Words:
 - When Faced With:
 - Such A Great Opportunity!
 - But - What Happened Then:
 - Still Happens Today!
 - Even By Us!
 - Jesus Christ Himself:
 - Is The Voice Of God!
 - Jesus Christ Himself:
 - Is The Shape Of God!
 - “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily!” (Colossians 2:9)
 - Jesus Christ Himself:
 - Is The Word Of God!
 - But - What Do You Do With Jesus?
 - Do You:
 - Keep Your Ears Open:
 - To His Voice?
 - Do You:
 - Keep Your Eyes Open:
 - To His Glory?
 - Do You:
 - Keep Your Heart Open:

- To His Word?
- All Too Often:
 - We Say We Believe In Jesus:
 - And Yet - We Ignore His Very:
 - Presence & Power In Our Lives!
- Don't Forget - And:
 - Don't Neglect:
 - The Heavenly Witness About Jesus:
 - Through His Works & His Word!
 - But Then - To Further Stir Up:
 - Our Hearts To Look To & Listen To Jesus:
 - Another Witnesses Is Added!
 - And That Is:

3. *An Historic Witness!*

- Which Is - Scripture Itself!
 - As We Find In 5:39:
 - "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me!"
 - Now - Instead Of 5:39 Being A Command:
 - It Is Better Translated:
 - "You Are Searching The Scriptures!"
 - So - In One Way:
 - Jesus Was Commending The Jews!
 - They Were "Searching The Scriptures!"
 - Which - At That Time:
 - Were The Old Testament Writings:
 - Of The Law & Prophets & Poetic Books!
 - But - Why Were They:
 - "Searching The Scriptures?"
 - Because - "In Them" - That Is:
 - In The Scriptures Themselves:
 - They "Thought They Had Eternal Life!"
 - The Perception:
 - They Had Of The Scriptures:
 - Was That - In Just The:
 - Possession Of Them - As Well As:
 - In The:
 - Practice Of Them:
 - They Would Be Saved!
 - The Jews Believed That:
 - The Reason God Gave Them:
 - The Old Testament Scripture:
 - Was Because:
 - He Was So Pleased With Them Already!
 - But - What Was & Still Is:
 - The Purpose:
 - Of The Scriptures?
 - Even The Old Testament?
 - It Was To Point Them & Us:
 - To Jesus!
 - 5:39 - "And they are they which testify of me!"
 - Eternal Life:
 - *Is* In The Scriptures!
 - But Only Because:
 - They Are An Historic Witness About Jesus:
 - And The Truth Of His Claims!
 - This Is Why - On Sunday Nights:
 - We Have Been Looking At:

- “Christ In The Old Testament!”
 - Because - Its All About:
 - Him! **IE**: Find & Search Book!
- In 2 Timothy 3:15:
 - Paul Told Timothy That:
 - “From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus!”
 - This Is Still True Today!
- The Scriptures:
 - Reveal The True Person & Nature:
 - Of Jesus Christ!
 - His Authority!
 - His Ability! And:
 - His Affirmation!
- And - We Need To Pray & Plea:
 - To The Lord - To:
 - Open **Our** Eyes & Hearts (And **Others**):
 - To This!
 - So That - When You:
 - Are “Searching The Scriptures!”
 - You Might Find Christ - And:
 - His Eternal & Abundant Life!

Conclusion:

1. God Has Been So Gracious To Us!
 - To Give Us:
 - So Many Witnesses:
 - To Tell Us & Teach Us About:
 - Jesus - As The Way:
 - To Eternal Life!
 - Human Witnesses:
 - In Believers Like:
 - John The Baptist!
 - Heavenly Witnesses:
 - In The Works **Of** Jesus - And:
 - The Words **About** Jesus:
 - From God The Father!
 - Historic Witnesses:
 - All Throughout:
 - The Bible!
2. But - What Have You Done - And:
 - What Will You Do:
 - With All Of This Testimony Of Truth?
 - Will You Do What:
 - The Jews Did - In 5:40?
 - “And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life!”
 - So Many Of The Jews In That Day:
 - Were Still Bound:
 - In Sin & Selfishness & Stubbornness!
 - And So - They:
 - **Would Not**:
 - Come To Jesus!
 - They Were Not Willing:
 - To Be Moved:
 - **By** Jesus Or **To** Jesus:
 - In Spite Of All The Evidence:
 - **About** Jesus!
 - 3. This Is Still - All Too Often:

- True For Us!
 - Even Though Jesus Has Quickened Our Will:
 - To Believe In Him:
 - Sometimes - Your Will:
 - Can Become Desensitized To:
 - The Truth Of The Gospel & God's Word!
4. Ask God To:
 - Stir Up Your Heart Once Again!
 - So That You Will:
 - **Look More For Jesus:**
 - In The Historic Witness:
 - Of The Scriptures!
 - That You Will:
 - **Listen More To Jesus:**
 - Through The Heavenly Witnesses:
 - Of God's Works & Words!
 - That You Will:
 - **Learn More About Jesus:**
 - Through The Human Witnesses:
 - That God Sends Into Your Life!
 - **All** - So That You Might:
 - Keep On "Coming To" Jesus!" - And:
 - Keep Getting Closer To Christ!
 - Because - Not Only Will You Then Have:
 - Eternal Life - You Will Have:
 - All Of What That Life Means!
 - A Life In Christ:
 - To Experience & Enjoy Now & Forever!

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