

Theme: Jesus “throws down the gauntlet” regarding his *person* and his *work* by providing a long list of witnesses to verify his claims. In this “trial” he moves from the “accused” to the “accuser” of those who do not believe. In so doing, he challenges us all to reach a decision and act.

Background: Jesus has presented the evidence for a “trial” against him. Now he presents witnesses for his defense.

Introduction: There are some things you just don’t want to hear. But you need to.

I. Jesus Astounding Claims (A quick review)

- A. A display of power (1-17)
 - 1. Paraplegic healed
 - 2. Rules over the power of sin
 - 3. Commands the work/purpose of the Sabbath
- B. The Father’s Son (18-29)
 - 1. His divinity
 - 2. His authority
 - He exercises divine authority and prerogatives
 - 3. Reasoning from the lesser to the greater

TRANSITION: If Jesus is the true Son then to believe his Word is to believe God’s Word; and to deny the word of the Son is to deny the Word of God.

II. Witnesses to the Son

- A. Making it personal
 - From “the Son” to “I” (19 vs. 30ff)
- B. A host of witnesses
 - 1. Jesus on trial - These “charges” will follow him to the cross
 - 2. Biblical requirement? More than one witness (Deuteronomy 17:6)
 - 3. Five witnesses presented
 - a. God – implied in 30, explicit in 37
 - b. John (the witness of man) (33-35)
 - c. His works (36)
 - Which are the works of the Father
 - d. The Scriptures (39)
 - Jesus “words” include all of scripture!
 - e. Testimony of Moses (45,46)
 - Not just in Deuteronomy 18:15,18

III. Who Is On Trial

- A. Jesus?
 - 1. The charges
 - a. Sabbath violations

b. Claiming equality with God

2. His defense – Presenting his list of witness

B. The “Jews”

1. The charges

First: You never heard his voice (37a)

- Jesus speaks the words of God – and they do not hear it

Second: You have never seen his form (37b)

- To see Jesus is to see the Father (14:9)

Third: You do not have his word abiding in you (38)

- That word is not “hidden in their hearts” (Psalm 119:11)

2. The fruit of unbelief

a. They do not believe the one whom he has sent! (38b)

b. Their study of the scriptures – but to no avail (39)

APPLICATION: Life is not found in learning and studying the scriptures alone – it is in *believing them!!*

c. They *refuse to come to him*, to have life (40)

d. Jesus *knows* they do not have the love of God in them (42)

e. They *do not receive him* (43)

f. They seek the praise (glory) of man (44; Matthew 6:1-4)

e. Moses is not their hope, he is their accuser (45b-47 Matthew 5:17)

3. The defense – They have none, just a greater determination to remove Jesus

APPLICATION: See the danger of loving the religious life and forgetting what it means to love God. They refused to ask the question that would lead to life.

IV. Preparing His Followers

A. What can we expect?

1. Challenge!

a. In John’s day

b. In our own day – The claims of Jesus are challenged constantly because it is a claim of singular, absolute *truth*. It challenges the pluralism and subjectivism that rules our culture.

c. Hold to this position and you will be persecuted.

- Remember: you are in good company! (15:20)

- Be prepared to give a defense

2. To be on our guard!

- The Jews fell into formalism – we must not

B. What Will You Decide?

- The most important question is now before you. Maybe it's one you don't want to hear or ask – but it is pressed upon you by Jesus. “There is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

- The Jews refused to come to Jesus, to believe and have life.

- Are you ready to ask who Jesus is, and come to him?