

John 5:19-47 – Five Witnesses to God’s Son

The man who was sick for 38 years wasn’t healed due to his own efforts. The man was healed because Jesus, by his grace, restored him to health. The Pharisees were spiritually sick. In fact, they were dead in their sins. They were more concerned with a man-made rule about the Sabbath than they were about giving glory to God for healing a man who was sick for 38 years. Worse than that, they wanted to kill the one who performed such a merciful healing. They could only have eternal life through Jesus. Their obsession with following their own man-made rules would never get them into the Kingdom of God.

Read John 5:19-30.

The Jews wanted to kill Jesus because they understood that Jesus claimed to be equal with God the Father. Instead of backtracking from this statement, which caused the Jews to seek to kill him, Jesus strengthened his claim. How does Jesus describe his relationship with the Father? (5:19-20)

The Pharisees believed in resurrection. Jesus stated that God the Father raises the dead and gives them life. Who can do that besides God the Father? What did Jesus say he could do? Who else can do that? (5:21)

God’s role as the Judge of the earth occurs many times in the Old Testament (Ps 7:11, Ps 9:8, Ps 50:6 to name a few). What is the Son’s role in judging the earth? Why is judgment given to the Son? Who should receive the same honor as God the Father? What is true of someone who does not honor the Son? What should we conclude from this? (5:22-23)

What is true of the person who hears the Son’s words and believes the Father who sent him? (5:24)

What was true of the dead who heard the voice of the Son of God? When did this occur? (5:25)

What unique power and authority does Jesus have? Where does Jesus get this power and authority? (5:26-30)

Read John 5:31-47.

In the last section of chapter five, Jesus presented five witnesses. The law required two or three witnesses for legal verification. Jesus just testified about himself in the previous verses. He needed one or two more witnesses to confirm what he said. His testimony alone did not meet the legal standard for truth. (Deuteronomy 19:15)

Jesus was the first witness. Who was the second witness? What did this witness testify about Jesus? (5:31-35)

What was Jesus' third witness. Jesus said that this witness was greater than the witness of John. What did the third witness testify about Jesus? (5:36)

Who was Jesus' fourth witness? What did this testimony involve and when did it happen? (5:37)

What was the fifth witness? How did this witness testify about Jesus? (5:39)

What did Jesus say about the Jews in verse 38? In verse 40 Jesus said that the Jews did not want to come to him to have life. Does that sound familiar? "Do you want to be healed?" "Do you want to have life?" In verse 42 Jesus said that the Jews did not have the love of God in them. What is the significance of this statement? (Deuteronomy 6:4-6)

Have you ever listened to a group of leaders and wondered why they could never seem to do the right thing? They give each other awards and pat each other on the back. They throw parties for themselves. They think they are doing a great job when in fact they are failing miserably. What did Jesus say was the problem with the Jewish leaders? (5:43-44)

The Pharisees boasted that they were disciples of Moses (9:28). Jesus said that they put their hope in Moses (5:45). Jesus said that Moses would be their judge and accuser. Why was this true? How were they not following the writings of Moses? (5:45-47)