

John 5:31-47

Commissioned And Confirmed by The Father

Introduction

On December 18th 2015 – the long-anticipated *Star Wars the Force Awakens* came out in cinemas...

And **for those who know** this was film 7 in a 9-part series of the Star cinematic universe!

Now what makes that altogether **confusing** yet **totally unique** is that:

1. Episode 4 came out in 1977!
2. And episode 1 came out in 1999!

And so, **if you are** a bit of a Star Wars fanatic and you tried to explain to a **non-star wars fan** why parts 4, 5, & 6 came out **2 decades sooner** than 1, 2, & 3 – you started to look a little bit weird!

And so **if you were like me, and you did go and see** the midnight screening – **then you would know** that there are these **really significant moments** in the movie where Han Solo & Chewie board the Millennium Falcon and the entire cinema **cheers in an uproar** because Chewie and Han have boarded back on their ship!

But if you were a **non-Star Wars nerd** and you went to see the midnight screening – and you didn't have the context – then you probably would have been thinking to yourself:

Why in the world is Harrison Ford travelling around the galaxy with a giant hairy monkey...

Why in the world is he wearing an ammo belt around his waist...

And why can he actually understand that thing?!?!?

There's just some unanswered questions because you don't have the context – and because you don't have the context, then you're probably going to miss some of the bigger **more weightier scenes** that makes sense of the movie!

John's Gospel

Now the reason I say this is because in John's Gospel there are these **really significant moments** that should capture our attention...

They should cause us to marvel and to wonder at God's grace – but **if we don't have the context** (if we don't have the background to the scene we're in) **then it's just going to read like every other moment** because we're unfamiliar with the story!

And so this text in John chapter 5 is **sort of the equivalent** of Han & Chewie boarding the Millennium Falcon and the readers of the Gospel getting amped up **with the narrative** because they know the context of the story!!!!

So all I'm trying to say to you here this morning is that as we read John chapter 5:

This is a moment!

This is a very **big moment** for the readers of John's gospel – but it's just going to read like **not-a-moment** if we don't have the context!

Recap

So with that being said **let me just remind you** of where we are – let me give you the context – so that we can get the significance of this scene...

At the beginning of John chapter 5 **Jesus heals** the paralytic man who had been born an invalid **for 38 years of his life!**

So for 38 years he was unable to do **anything meaningful** when it came to contributing to society or giving back to his community!

He had spent his entire life **sponging off** those at the Pool of Bethesda and for the first time in his life – he was going to have to **give something back** to society!!!

And so Jesus **despite the man's faith** ends up healing the man, and getting him to **walk right past** the religious leaders!

And **in response to this healing** the religious leaders **start to persecute Jesus** because:

He was doing these things on the Sabbath!

They **were more interested** in the law being broken than in the man being made whole!

They were more interested in their own religious system than in the glory of God being made manifest in this man's life!

Jesus' Response

And so in response to this – Jesus makes **2 fundamental claims** – as to why He alone **wasn't breaking** the Sabbath – and why he alone **has the authority** to do such things – verse 17:

My Father is working, and I am working!

In other words **Jesus has the same prerogatives as God Himself** – and Jesus is equal to God **in glory, grace, and truth!**

And so in **verses 19 to 30 Jesus then** goes on trial before the religious leaders **to prove His case** as to why He alone is equal to God **in every single way!**

Main Point

And so **after displaying to them** His ability in verses 19 to 30 **to be able to give life and to judge** – Jesus (in our text this morning) is going to back-up those claims by calling on some other external **(OUTSIDE OF HIMSELF) witnesses** in order to validate those claims!

And just so we're clear Jesus doesn't need **these other witnesses** –but He uses them **for the sake of** His Jewish opponents and their understanding of the gospel!

Because in order to win these men over to the truth – Jesus needed to condescend to their level!

He needed to come down and to verify His claims for the sake of their own subjective understanding of the law!

And in fact Jesus goes on to say this in verse 34:

I do not receive human testimony...but I say these things so that you may be saved...

Jesus' heart was to condescend for **their sake** – to win them over **for their sake** – and to give them evidence **for their sake!**

See **anyone can claim to be divine** – but only Jesus can prove that claim through His external Words, external Works, and external Witnesses!

Main Point

So let's read John chapter 5 now – let's see **these external witnesses** and **let's see what God would say** through the preaching of His Word!

The main point we're gonna see as we come to John chapter 5 is that:

In order to know Jesus Christ, we must accept the testimony about Him in all the Father says!

And what we're going to see as we make our way through this passage – is that the Father has spoken about His Son **through 3 distinct** forms of revelation!

1. First He has spoken to us through prophets and Apostles **John the Baptist** [33-35] – **Human Witness!**
2. Second He has spoken through **the works and miracles** that Jesus performs [36-38] – **What John calls Signs!**
3. And then finally He has spoken to us through His final revelation of **the Holy Scriptures** [39-47]

So:

1. John the Baptist

2. The works that Jesus does
3. And the Holy Scriptures

These are the 3 forms that we're gonna see **are testifying** to the claims that Jesus makes...

John 5

So John chapter 5 beginning at verse 31 – Jesus says this:

If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. ³² There is another who testifies about me, and I know that the testimony He gives about me is true.³³ You sent messengers to John, and He testified to the truth. ³⁴ I don't receive human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved.³⁵ John was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. ³⁶ "But I have a greater testimony than John's because of the works that the Father has given me to accomplish. These very works I am doing testify about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ The Father who sent me has Himself testified about me. You have not heard His voice at any time, and you haven't seen His form. ³⁸ You don't have His word residing in you, because you don't believe the one He sent. ³⁹ You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life...

Opening Gambit

Now what Jesus here in these opening few verses – is **stopping these men** in the Old Testament **Civil language found in a courtroom of law!**

I'm sure many of you know but in the history of **the Old Testament** the idea of giving testimony **in a courtroom setting** was so significant to the people of God – that when God fashioned the **bed-rock constitution** of His Old Testament people – He included **in their top 10 laws** a law against bearing false witness!!!

In fact, so significant was this Law to the heart of God – that when anyone would deliver a false or malicious testimony in a court of law (**specifically concerning a capital crime**) that person (who bears false testimony) would themselves receive the death penalty!

And so great care was having to be taken about **how the truth** could be **known and received** in the context of a Jewish trial!

and that's what we see happening in these verses!

So when Jesus Himself gives testimony **concerning His identity, His nature, His works** – He is going to back up His claims by referencing **other external witnesses!**

Verse 31

And that's why He says in verse 31:

If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true...

Now how many times in Scripture does Jesus testify concerning Himself?!?!

How many times in John's Gospel does Jesus make claims concerning His relationship to the Father?!?!

And so **we need to understand** that the language being used by Jesus – is language that is:

1. Stopped in Old Testament Israel language – language found in the courtroom of law!
2. But secondly – it is **language that is bathed** in this idea of *the eternal sonship of God*:

That the Son can do **nothing on His own** but **only** what He sees the Father doing!

In fact if we could go back **throughout the chapter** we see that this is a theme that Jesus is **drilling into our minds** over and over again:

The Father loves the Son – the Son loves the Father – and He has given all things into His hands!

And so when Jesus says that If I bear witness about myself my testimony is not true – He isn't saying that He's a liar but **He's simply affirming that idea of the eternal sonship of God** that:

His own testimony is **never independent** of His heavenly Father's – and that He will NEVER WORK independently of His Father's will:

Especially when He is giving testimony concerning Himself!

3 Distinct Forms

And that's why in verse 32 Jesus will go on to say:

There is another who testifies about me, and I know that the testimony He gives about me is true...

Now most scholars believe that because Jesus **doesn't actually name** this independent witness (here in verse 32) **that it must be referring** to God the Father!

Because often the Jews would reserve saying the name of YAHWEH out of fear and reverence for Him!

And I think that given the context of everything Jesus has said up until this point in the passage – that verse 32 **is referring to God the Father** – **But see the Father's testimony** is NOT simply given by the Father Himself – but is going to come out in **3 distinct avenues!!!**

3 distinct forms; or 3 distinct ways that the Father bears witness concerning His Son here in John 5!

John the Baptist

And the first way is **as we said:**

Through John the Baptist!

God the father bears witness about Jesus Christ **through** John the Baptist in verses 33 to 35 – He says:

You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth.³⁴ I don't receive human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved.³⁵ John was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light...

[But I have a greater testimony than that of even John the Baptist...]

John's Testimony

Now we've spent a lot of time looking at John's testimony in the earlier portions of this Gospel – and we've **spent a lot of time** looking specifically at his testimony **concerning Jesus!**

And what we discovered was that **in the earlier portions** of John's Gospel – John was a burning and shining lamp who came to bear testimony concerning **the ultimate lamp:**

The light of the world!

And what makes John's testimony so unique is that **when he came:**

*He came **as a witness** to the light – but He made it very clear that He was **NOT** the light!*

Remember in John chapter 1 when a delegation was sent out to John by the Jews in the wilderness – that John made it clear:

I AM NOT THE CHRIST!

And that's what Jesus says here:

You sent messengers to John and he testified to the truth!

He saw Jesus coming and said to them:

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

And so according to Jesus – **John had reinstated** the Old Testament office of the Old Testament Prophet – because **in order to direct the people** of God to the only source of **true & living light** – **he himself** needed to be **a flickering lamp** of hope in the midst of a **dark and dying** world!

Putting Holes in the Darkness

The story is told of the famous novelist Robert Louis Stevenson who recounts a vivid story of when he was just a little child one day **staring out of his bedroom window...**

The story goes that one night when it was time for bed, he was sitting at his bedroom window just **staring out** into the night!

And his caretaker comes in and tells him it's time for bed – but oblivious to her summons he **just keeps staring off** into the night!

And so she sort of came over to the window and stared out there with him and said:

Robert what are you doing...?

The little boy, without taking his eyes away from the window, **pointed to the men** who were lighting the street lamps with their candles – and he said to her:

Nanny, those men are putting holes in the darkness!

John came **as a witness** to the light **in order to poke holes into the darkness...**

And he did that **primarily** by pointing people to the Lamb of God!

And this is what Jesus says – He says:

You were willing for a time to rejoice in that light!

You were willing to come out to him, and even listen to him, and some of you were even be baptised
by him!

But then you killed him...and started to persecute me!

Shooting Star

So if we think about it like this:

John was a shooting star – but He was **NOT the Sun!**

He was a shooting star for a time!

He was still impressive!

He was still gifted!

But He wasn't the main point!

He was a pointer to the point!

And some of you **were even willing to rejoice** in that light –

So John came, and you were with him, and some of you liked him, until you killed him!

And the point is – that if they thought that John was **an impressive witness** (which he was) – He was **only a man** who was sent by God!!!

He was merely a human witness!

The Miracles

Because Jesus says that:

If you thought John was an impressive witness to the light – I have something **so much better** than even John himself!

Because I have a witness that **comes directly from** the Father of lights – and that is **the witness of my miraculous signs!**

And that leads us into point number 2:

*The father bears witness about Jesus Christ **through** the works He does!*

Verse 36:

But I have a greater testimony than John's because of the works that the Father has given me to accomplish. These very works I am doing testify about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ The Father who sent me has Himself testified about me. You have not heard His voice at any time, and you haven't seen His form. ³⁸ You don't have His word residing in you, because you don't believe the one He sent...

Signs

So as powerful as the testimony of John was – Jesus says there is a **weightier witness** than even that of John the Baptist!

And the witness is weightier **because of the One** who sends it!

See Jesus is clear that while His divine miracles expressed great care & compassion upon those who received them – they were not an end **in and of themselves!**

And as I've said **multiple times** already in John's Gospel – the miracles Jesus performs **are not the point!**

As great as those signs are – as great as those miracles are – they **always point us** beyond themselves to a deeper and greater message:

To the One who giving them!

And the reason I say that is because John goes to such **great lengths** to explain to us that the miracles Jesus performs are **never once described as miracles!**

They are NOT called Miracles!

They are NOT called Wonders!

They are NOT called Marvels!

They are signs!

Simple

Plain

boring

signs

Because John does not want you to get caught up in the miracle itself!

The point of a sign is to point us beyond itself to the ONE WHO IS GIVING IT!

And in this case the miracles that Jesus performs are pointing us to **the divine witness of the Father** – that He has sent the Son and that we must believe in the Son in order to be saved!

This is what the Book of Hebrews chapter 2 is pointing us toward – Hebrew 2 verse 3:

*This salvation had its beginning when it was spoken of by the Lord, and it was confirmed to us by those who heard Him. ⁴ At the same time, God **also testified** [to this salvation] by **signs and wonders, and various miracles...***

So God testifies to the message of His Son – by allowing His Son to do the various signs that point us to His divine nature!

Miracles themselves are **NOT the point of Jesus' ministry** – they are merely helpful pointers so that we may believe **in the message Jesus spoke!**

This was **the whole point** of Luke 24 – Jesus appears to His disciples and **before revealing Himself to any of them!!!**

He first directs their attention to the Word of God!

Because the signs authenticate the message!

So remember when Nicodemus came to Jesus back in John chapter 3 and he said to Him:

Rabbi we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could perform these signs you do unless God were with Him...

The point:

Jesus signs authenticate the message that He brings!

The works I am doing testify to the fact that the Father Himself has sent me!

Look no further

So friends I just wanna challenge you here this morning **that if you are in this place** looking for a miraculous sign or miracle from God Himself:

Then you don't need to look any further!

Because God is speaking to us – right here – right now – **in** His Son – **through** His Word in John 5:

And the message that He gives is this:

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved!

Believe the Words that Jesus spoke – entrust yourself to Him – and believe that He really is who he says that He is!

Lack Of Evidence

Because this is something that these Pharisees **had failed to see and believe** in their reading of the Bible **because of their hearts!!!**

They had deeply misinterpreted the **work** of Jesus – **words** of Jesus – **and the witness** of Jesus – because:

A lack of evidence is NOT the problem!

But as we read in verse 37:

The Father who sent me Has himself testified about me. You have not heard His voice at any time, and you haven't seen His form. ³⁸ You don't have His word residing in you, because you don't believe the one He sent...

So the reason why these Pharisees are rejecting Jesus Christ **is NOT due** to any lack of evidence or signs from previous revelation or the works He's done – but the **reason they refused to believe in Jesus** is because they don't want to believe in Jesus!

They don't like to believe in Jesus!

They refuse to believe in Jesus because their hearts had not been changed by prior revelation!

D.A Carson

In his commentary on John's Gospel D.A Carson helps to make sense of these verses – when he says this:

[The point of this indictment – verses 37 & 38] is that Jesus' opponents had not really grasped the import of prior revelation. God had spoken to the fathers 'at many times and in various ways' but all of them had been anticipating the supreme revelation of the Son... Failure to believe in Jesus is therefore evidence that however precise the exact scholarship is, in studying that revelation, the revelation itself has not been absorbed, understood or obeyed...

Refusal to Listen

In other words:

The reason they refused to accept the testimony of Jesus was **because they refused to read prior revelation** according to how God designed it to work – because God designed that revelation to point us to Jesus **and they refused to listen!**

And so I think this goes to demonstrate that at the end of the day – you can have **all of the theological knowledge** – and you can have **all of the theological background** – and **all of the theological jargon** – and you can spend your entire life **devoted to knowing the Bible** – and yet!!!

Still miss the point of what the bible's about...

Still miss coming to so great a salvation!

Because Jesus says that a real knowledge of God's Word will always lead us to repentance and faith in God's Son!

In the words of J.C Ryle:

Where there is no faith we may rightly assume that the Bible is either not read or read in a spirit of ignorance... ignorance and unbelief will always go together!

Point 3

And so the question becomes friends:

How do we read the Bible in a spirit of knowledge that will lead us into everlasting joy and satisfaction in the One God sends?!?!?

How can we read the Bible and NOT miss the point of what it's about...

And the answer is actually really simple:

We must read the Bible in such a way that we find Jesus at the very centre!

We must find Jesus at the very centre of all of Scripture – because Jesus says that the Bible is about Him!

And that leads us into our third and final point:

The Bible is about Jesus!

So let's keep reading from verse 39 – Jesus says to these religious leaders:

You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me. But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life. “I do not accept glory from people, but I know you—that you have no love for God within you. I have come in my Father’s name, and yet you don’t accept me. If someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. So how can you believe, since you accept glory from one another but don’t seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. But if you don’t believe what he wrote, how will you believe my words?”

Jesus in the Bible

O friends what a statement!

Now this really happened by the way!

This was a real conversation Jesus had!

He really said this!

I mean can you imagine Jesus standing there in the temple courts – and giving **this scathing rebuke** to these religious teachers of the law – and hearing Him say:

*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life and **yet it is they** that bear witness concerning me!*

All the while knowing that these men had devoted **their entire lives** to studying the Scriptures!

And yet they still missed the point...

John 3

Now we saw this **all the way** back in John chapter 3 that:

Jesus explains to Nicodemus this idea of the new birth from the Old Testament!

That those who would enter the kingdom of heaven must be born from above and He uses Ezekiel 36 to prove it!

Numbers 21

We saw in Numbers 21 that:

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness so too must the Son of man be lifted up!

John 4

Back in John 4 Jesus explains to the woman at the well:

About the Living Water of eternal life that Jeremiah speaks about to the people of Israel!

Luke 24

And we saw **just last week** from Luke 24:

*How Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures concerning **everything written** in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms!*

Now that was a **3-fold witness** – a way of describing the whole Hebrew Bible!

The whole of the Old Testament Scriptures!

In fact the puritans would say that:

Christ is the hidden treasure in the fields of the Old Testament...

That He can be found on every single page!

And so Jesus is clear friends that beginning from Moses **all the way through** to the book of Revelation:

Those who would read the Scriptures and believe it's message must also be conceived that the Bible's about Him!

That although Jesus is NOT the content of every line of the bible – He is at the same time **the centre** of every line of the bible!

Now either Jesus was a megalomaniac who loved Himself so much that He said this – or **He is who He says He is**...and the Bible really is all about Him!

Which means that if we explain **any text** in isolation from it's meaning to Jesus – then we fail to say **the very thing** that He said the Bible's about!

Cause He said it's about Him!

He said that He's at the centre of it all!

And so **we can't understand** the **Person or work** of Jesus Himself (His signs, His miracles, or anything He does) unless we see it **in connection with the Word!**

The Word is always **the only infallible guide** to our knowledge of God!

Written Vs. Living

I love the story Al Mohler tells at a Baptist gathering where there was a **more liberal theologian** who got up and spoke about how:

*We're too stuck on the written Word of God – and we need to be focused on the living Word (Jesus) – and we're too much about the bible and we're **not enough** about Him!*

And so Al Mohler gets up after his presentation and says:

*Thank you very much sir for that fine scholarly presentation... it actually reminds me of that song we learned in Sunday School as children: Jesus loves me this I know for the... **Bible** tells me so!*

In other words, we can know **nothing of** the living Word of God until we see Him in the written Word of God!

The written makes sense of the living!

The Word of God is always **the only infallible guide** to our knowledge of Jesus!

Glory from another

And so finally in verses 41 to 47 Jesus finishes off His scathing rebuke by pointing out the hypocrisy of these men **and the charges they bring against Him** – Verse 41:

*I do not accept glory from people, ⁴² but I know you—that you have no love for God within you. ⁴³ I have come in my Father's name, and yet you don't accept me. If someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. ⁴⁴ So how can you believe, since you accept glory from one another but don't seek the glory that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. But **if you don't believe** what he wrote, how will you believe my words?*

Lack of Love

So Jesus anticipates the charges being laid against Him **from these Jews** that because He's been saying this whole time:

- *The bible's about me!*
- *I and the father are one!*

- *And I have the very same divine prerogatives as God Himself!*

That possibly these men **had started to believe** that He was acting out of some **self-promotion or interest that day!**

Remember Jesus did this in a **very public place** with a mass-amount of people and so the charges would have been **rolling in** on His account!

And so **in anticipation** of these events – Jesus flips the charge **to show them** that the reason these men reject the Messiah (the reason they don't accept His testimony) – **doesn't come** from the fact that He says that *the Bible is about Him* (**that would turn any unbeliever off if they heard Jesus say that**) – but their rejection actually comes from:

1. A lack of love **for God** on their part!
2. And **a love** for human approval!

They seek **NOT the glory** of the only God but they seek the approval of man!

*If someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him... but when I come in **my father's name** – doing **my Father's will** – showing **my Father's works** – and displaying **my father's glory**:*

You will not accept me because **you have set your hope on Moses!**

And yet **Jesus is clear** friends that the very one **they had set their hopes upon** would be **the very one** who accuses them to the Father!

Now I think **Jesus had in mind** here Deuteronomy 18:18 when He said this:

*That the LORD God will raise up for them a prophet like Moses from among their brothers, and I will put my word in His mouth and He will tell them everything I command Him...and if anyone does not listen to the words that the prophet speaks in my name **I myself will call him to account...***

So that's how Moses was accusing them that day!

That's how Moses will be their accuser when Christ sits in judgement **over these Jews** – because they have NOT believed the **the very One** Moses had written about!

Moses wrote about Him – and these Jews failed to see Jesus!

They failed to believe the Father's witness about the Son...

Conclusion

And so in the end friends – Jesus is clear to say to these men that:

What good is it to gain the whole bible and yet lose your soul in hell!

What good is it to read the Old Testament Scriptures and the New Testament Scriptures and yet **fail to see the very one** that those same Scriptures declare that **they are speaking about!**

Friends **don't make the mistake** these Jews made that day of rejecting Jesus simply because they **could NOT compute** the claims He was making about Himself!

That if you walk out of this building here this morning **rejecting Jesus** because He claims to have **unparalleled glory** – and you are rejecting His claims simply because His claims go against your fundamental worldview or belief:

Then you are the very one that Jesus speaks of here in John 5 when it comes to the arrogance of pride!

You **do NOT** have the love of God residing in you – and you **do NOT** seek the glory that comes from the only God who is at the Father's right side!

And on the great and final day of judgement – when you stand before the Father giving an account of your life – Christ will stand in judgement over you **because of your rejection of Him!**

Because you have failed to believe in **the only one** that the Father has given for us to believe in!

Gospel

But see the Good News of the Gospel...is that even though you have failed to honour Jesus – Jesus still stands **to never fail you!**

Jesus lived the **perfect life** and He died the **perfect death** in order to secure our place, in His body,
on that tree!

And **for all those** who would repent and believe on the Lord Jesus – the Father has promised to give us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life by trusting in His name!

As Jesus says in this very same chapter verse 24:

Anyone who hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life...

Believe in the Lord Jesus – trust in His death to save you from your sin and you shall be saved!

For in the words of the Old Hyman *laden with guilt* we read:

Laden with guilt and full of fear,
I fly to Thee my Lord,
And not a glimpse of hope appears,
But in Thy written word
The volume of my Father's grace
Does all my griefs assuage
And Here I behold His face
In every single page

And it is my prayer this morning friends that you would find Jesus Christ on every...single...page!

Let's Pray.

John 5:31-47
Discussion Questions

[Read John 5:31-47].

Main Point: *To know Jesus, we must accept the testimony the Father has given about Him.*

Q1. In your own words, explain what has happened up until this point in John 5? – Why would Jesus need extra witnesses to His claim as God?

Q2. [Read verse 31]. What does Jesus mean that His testimony about Himself is not true? **[Read also John 8:14 as contrast].**

Q3. [Read verses 33-35]. What was the primary purpose of John's ministry? – How did he accomplish this? – Why would Jesus list John as a witness when there are 3 other witnesses much more impressive?

Q4. What did the Jews end up doing to John the Baptist? **[See Matthew 14:3-12]** – What does this tell us about those who reject the truth, and how they will treat those who love the truth?

Q5. [Read verses 36-38]. What is the second witness Jesus calls to the stand? – What does Jesus say is the point of His miraculous signs? – Have you ever had a miraculous event occur where God has delivered you from death? – What did you learn from it?

Q6. [Read verses 39-40]. According to Jesus, what is the primary purpose of Scripture? – How would you explain to someone the concept that the Bible is one unfolding narrative of God’s grace? – What Scriptures would you use to prove it?

Q7. What is the reason these Jews refused to come to Jesus and believe His testimony? [See verses 42-44].

Q8. [Read verses 45-47]. What is the glaring contrast Christ draws between their devotion to the Scriptures and their ability to miss who Christ is? – In that sense how will Moses accuse them on the last day?

Q9. What are the eternal consequences of missing the truth about who Christ is? – How can we guard against apathy or indifference regarding Christ and His word?