

Title: Search The Scriptures

Text: John 5:30-47

Take your Bibles, please, and open them to John chapter 5. We are continueing our study of John. We are at Vs 30. There are notes in your bulletin. John chapter 5 and verse 30.

I am continually amazed at the amount of information in John involving the diety of Christ. In no way does this take away from the glory that belongs to the Father. But as we learn the Word: the Father and the Son are one. One in esence and being as well as purpose and motive. And the claims of J.C. that are unfolded in John cause all of us to be very careful that we understand who He really is. Many times, I believe, in evangelism, we are giving people false motives. For example, we might say to you if you are depressed or discouraged that Christ can give you joy and happiness, ~~and~~ give you abundant life and put meaning in your life that you don't presently have. That is a false motive of evangelism. We hope and pray that that will happen to you, but if you are a normal new convert one of the first things that a new convert usually experiences is a lot of suffering and testing. And if you shared with that person before they became a christian that "Christ is going to give you peace and joy and happiness(Oh, he will alright), but it may not be immidiate. And it maybe a little bit different then thought. And God often plungs you into suffering. ~~A~~

And often times we use the motive that it is not based upon God , but based on man. That some how we want man to benefit from it. But the real Godpel is about how God is benefited. The Gospel is based upon the nature and character of God. And so we want you to respond to Him. We want you to know that He has a proier claim to your life. That you have no other alternative. You EITHER REPENT OR PERISH. That God is demanding your allengence.

You say, "Now wait a minute. Doesn't he love me. Oh, Yes, he certainly does. But God has ever right your life because he made you. And he understands you better than you undersaand yourself. And he can run your life better than you can run it.

I don't urge you to accept Christ as a crutch or because you think you have a particular need. Christ will meet needs. But, I urge you to flee to almighty God because of his pror claim on your life. Because he has a right to control you. Because He knows how the world is going to end. AND he knows how the future is going to be displayed forever.

And he wants you to be a part of it. And he loves you. But, listen, you must come with bended knees to that almighty God.

When we invite you to come to Christ, we are not hoping to add another deminstion to your life. Something that maybe missing. We are hoping to completely revelutionize you. That all of the thoughts that you had that were centered around yourself and your goals are now going to be centered around the almighty God who made you. To understand why you are here and where you are going after you die.

So, that is why John is so inportant as a Gospel. Because it unfolds to us that Jesus was the almighty God who made you. Who invaded this plant and manifested Himself in a physical body. So that, you can understand him. AND he went to a cor cross and died for our sins. Substituting His divine life for all of us. THIS IS THE CHRIST THAT IS UNFOLDED IN JOHN. AND THERE ARE TREMENDOUS THINGS HERE IN THIS BOOK.

And beginning at Vs 30, Jesus is continuing to discuss His relationship to the Father brings forth the problem of evidence. The whole evidence issue, What proof do we have that Jesus is related to the Father in the way that he has been teaching here in this chapter.

The immidiate sitting is the lame man what was healed. And then you will remember that the Jews charged him with breaking the law because he healed the man on the Sabbath. He then indicated that the Father continues to work even until this present day. And that He, himself, works. Then they knew that He was claiming equlaty with God. And so they set out to kill him.

Then Jesus gave a tremendous discourse on how He and the Father are related one to the other.

Now, beginning with Vs 30, he deals with the evidence of this relationship

Let's read the scripture....(READ Vs 30-47)

Let us Pray

We have looked so far in this chapter at the character of the miracle in Verse 1 to 9. Then the charge of the Jews. Then we began to look at the comments of Jesus on his relationship to the Father. And we have studied the following...

One, the extent of this relationship through Vs 23.

Two, the effects of this relationship upon men. Verses 24 to 29.

(3) Now, number three is the evidence of this relationship.

(1) And the first thing that I want you to see in verses 30 to 32 is the problem of evidence which Jesus gives to them in presenting his case.

It involves the following.

(1) Number one, it involves recognizing the importance of evidence. Jesus said in chapter 5 verse 30.. "I can do nothing on my own initiative."

Back in Vs 19 Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner."

And so in Vs 30 when he says, "I can do nothing on my own initiative" it is the same point, really. The point is that the will of the Father was his will. And His whole right to judge us, is based on that truth. The one will will face one day in judgement is Jesus. He knows what you have been through. He lived human life by personal experience. And he was tempted in all points like we are. Therefore, he can be a just judge. He knows what you are going through. You cannot hide from Him. "For all things are naked and open to the eyes of him with whom we have to deal."

Now the point of Jesus is that the reason I have the authority to judge you is because my will is the same will as my Fther. I Don't of mine ownself do anything. But His will is what I want. And that is clear from the last phrase. "I do not seek my own will, but the will ofHim who sent me."

It is the will of God the Father that the son have all the judgment. And the point of Jesus is: He has every right to judge men becauseit is the will of the Father. And the will of the Father is not something separate from him.

Jesus never did anything independently from the Father. The will of God is one. And the Father and the Son did exactly the same. No difference. (2) Number two, we notice ~~of~~ the problem of evidence in recording witness of yourself. In Vs 31 Jesus brings out this point when he says "If I alone bear witness of myself, my testimony is not true."

What is Jesus saying? Does He really mean that? I mean does He mean that if He ever tells us anything about himself, that that isn't true?

Some believe that He is referring to the O.T. requirement of two or more witnesses to establish something/. I do not believe that is what Jesus intended. I don't believe what Jesus is saying that for me to say the truth about myself requires two or three witnesses. I don't think that is the point at all.

I think that He is literally saying that if I bear witness about myself, meaning independently from the Father, his witness would not be true. And of course that is true. Jesus never bore witness about himself that was independent of the Father. But, he certainly bore witness about himself. Please do not mis-interpret that verse. So many use the O.T. two or three witnesses as the reason Jesus said this. That is not true. Whatever Jesus said was true. The point is that he never gave witness independently from the Father. Never.. His witness is always true. And the evidence is that it is the same witness as the Heavenly Father gives to His son, Jesus. Exactly the same. Jesus never gave a separate witness to himself.

(3) The third thing that I want you to notice about the problem of evidence is in receiving witness from the Father. In verse 32 Jesus said, "There is another who bears witness of me;"

Now, he is not talking about John the Baptist which he mentions in Vs 33. He is talking about the heavenly Father in the context. The Father bears witness of me; "and I know that the testimony which He bears of me is true."

The thing that I would like to emphasize here is that John miraculously brings out the relationship of Jesus to the Father. This is what he is doing here in Vs 32.

You see, there are two words in Greek for "another". You can have "another" of a different kind. That is not the word used here by John. The other word is "another" of the same kind. And that is the word used here. And this fascinates me. Because Jesus ~~is~~ is saying: "There is another" of the exact same kind as myself who bears witness of me. The Heavenly Father and He were both of the same kind.

Do you know that Jesus also did that with the Holy Spirit? A little bit later in John 14 and 15 and 16, when Jesus deals with the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, Jesus said that "when I leave you, I will not leave you as orphans." He is talking to his disciples. "But he said that he was going to send another comforter to you." Not another of a different kind. But again the Greek word is "another" of the same kind.

You see, the Holy Spirit is the same kind of a comforter as Jesus is. And the Father is bearing ~~witness~~ witness, just like the son bears witness. He is another of the same kind.

() Now, beginning with Vs 33, we have the proof behind this evidence that Jesus really is all that he claims to be. And it is a four-fold proof presented to us from verses 33 through 47. Four things.

(1) First of all, the witness of John the Baptist. Verse 33 to 35. The witness of John the Baptist. Two things I would like to you know here.

(1) One, the reason why Jesus referred to him.

Why did Jesus at this moment, facing Jews who wanted to kill him for blaspheming, for saying that He was equal with God, and saying that He could work on the Sabbath because the Father always works and never stops, why in the world did Jesus bring up John the Baptist to these Jews?

(1) Number one, the reason Jesus referred to him is stated in Vs 34, that you might be saved. Vs 33 says, "You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth." Now, this statement is going back to John chapter 1 where we have recorded the witness of John the Baptist. The Jews had sent Priest and Levites out to the wilderness to test John and to find out who he was. And Jesus is saying here in Vs 33 that John bore witness to the truth. "THE TRUTH"...a particular truth....WELL, WHICH ONE?

Turn back to John chapter 1 verse 29. What did that group of witnesses hear that Jesus said John bore witness to the truth. WHAT WAS THAT TRUTH.

John chapter 1 verse 29 says, (Read Vs 29---31)

That is the Messiah. The Saviour. He is the lamb of God who will take away the sin of the world. Back to chapter 5.....

Jesus said to them, "You have sent to John"...Same group..Jewish religious leaders..... "And he bore witness to the truth that I am the lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world." That I am the Messiah. The one who should be made manifest to Israel. And in the first four chapters of John we have a record of his manifestation to Israel. Now, we are experiencing the reaction to that.

In Vs 34 Jesus said, "But the witness which I receive is not from man." In other words, I don't need John the Baptist tell you who I am. I am just reminding you of this for one reason. What was the reason? .."THAT YOU MIGHT BE SAVED.....

That they might remember the message of John the Baptist. Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Behold the lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world. That is why Jesus brought up John. There is an evangelist point here. He wanted them to be saved.

You know, I think how these religious leaders have not set out the plans and the plots to kill Jesus. And yet, Jesus could say this to ~~to~~ them in spite of that. I want you to be saved.

(2) In Vs 35, the second thing that I want you to notice about the witness of John the Baptist is the responds that the Jews gave to him. And Jesus reminds them of that. It says, "He was the lamp that was burning and shining." The point is that Jesus is praising John special ministry to draw people to the Saviour. He was the light that was calling people to the most marvellous light of the world. Jesus himself. John was the light to draw people to Jesus.

We are to be lights, also. And do the same thing. That the light that we have through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives might be burning and shining and drawing people to Jesus

Jesus said, "Let your light ^{so} shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

(2) Now, beginning at Vs 36 we have the second of the four-fold proof that Jesus brings of his relationship to the Father. That he really is all that He claims to be. The evidence for it. First was John the Baptist. Secondly, the works of Jesus himself.

Vs 36 says, "But the witness which I have is greater than that of John; for the works which the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father has sent me."

Back in Vs 17 Jesus said, "My Father is working until now, and I myself am working." The Father was working out his plan in the Son. The Father was working miracles through the son. The son was working miracles. They are one in works.

Jesus said, "A greater witness is what I am doing." NOW WHAT WORKS IS HE REFERRING TO?

He is referring, obviously, to the healing of the lame man...changing water into wine at the marriage in Galilee. There are many other miracles that we could add here. He is referring to his miraculous power.

Now, why is that evidence or proof for all that he claimed to be? WHY? Now, I want you to be careful here. I want you to think very seriously.

People can perform what appears to be miracles. Satan can perform miracles. WHAT EVIDENCE IS JESUS BRING FORTH TO PROVE TO THEM THAT HIS MIRACLES WERE TRULY OF GOD?

As a matter of fact, if you remember the Gospel carefully, on several occasions they challenged Jesus about his miracles. They accused Jesus of doing miracles by the power of Satan. Because they knew that the Devil had the power to do miracles just as surely as God does.

But the interesting thing about the miracles of Jesus is that they were fulfilling O.T. prophecies. The Messiah had to perform certain miracles. And Jesus is saying that the works that he was specifically doing are fulfilling what the O.T. scriptures said. T

Notice the little "accomplish" in Vs 36. There was a whole planned laid out by God as to the miracles that Jesus should do to prove that he was the Messiah. And Jesus accomplished everyone of them. He accomplished the work.

I think one of the most beautiful statements in the Gospels is found in John 17. As Jesus is alone in the garden of Gethsemen praying to the heavenly Father, he says, "I have accomplished the work which you gave me to do." He accomplished the work. He did the miracles. He had proven that he was the Messiah.

But, as you well know, many times when Jesus did miracles the crowds did not believe on him. If Jesus were here today, what an attraction. I would wish that the whole world would see him.

But, I want you to know that even if He performed miracles in your presence, there would still be many who would not believe on him. That is the second area of proof.

(3) The third area of proof is the will of the Father in Verse 37 and 38. Jesus brings his own Heavenly Father into the picture. He says, "And the Father who sent me, He has borne witness of me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. And you do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent."

Here is a fascinating point.

(1) The first thing that I would like you to notice about the will of the Father that Jesus brings to our attention is that it was through the prophets.

The invisible God, according to Jesus, was communicated through the O.T. The Father did bear witness. And Jesus brings up the issue in Vs 38 that you have not His word abiding in you. There is the testimony to the person of Jesus.

(2) But secondly, I notice that the will of the Father is seen through the presence of His Son, Jesus. He said, "for you do not believe Him whom He sent. That have not accepted the proof that God the Father gave in the O.T. They refused to believe that Jesus was fulfilling O.T. scripture even though they saw his miracles with their own eyes.

And we are reminded here that the invisible God did communicate his message, even before Jesus came into a physical body.

You see, we make a big point, and rightly so of the fact that God revealed himself in human form so we could understand him. That is good.

But, listen, before Jesus ever came, the O.T. scriptures had clearly revealed the invisible God and his plan for the Messiah.

In the O.T. law, in the Pentateuch, you find the phrase "the one who is sent." Jesus always says in John "HE SENT ME." "I AM THE SENT ONE." It is the root word "APOSTLE". An apostle is a sent one. And it is thrilling to read in the O.T. that God told Moses that that will be the mysterious name of the Messiah. "THE SENT ONE". THE ONE WHO IS COMING.

Jesus, all the way through John says "MY FATHER HAS SENT ME".

So, the witness is clear in Vs 38: "for you do not believe Him whom He sent." The witness was there even if God was invisible. God witnessed to them through the O.T. Scriptures and the Prophets told of the coming of the Messiah. And now His presence is here and they will not believe Him.

(4) The finally proof that Jesus brings are the words of Scripture. Verse 39 through 47. The Scriptures that these Jewish leaders so religiously held to, were the very thing that was convicting them. The one thing that will cause you to know and to understand God's plan and to know Jesus Christ, is THE WORD OF GOD.

The Word of God was spoken orally in times past. God communicated in various ways according to Hebrews 1:1 and 2. But, now in these last days, He has completed his revelation in His son Jesus. And the total revelation of God is now in the scriptures.

The word "scriptures" means "writing". And how thrilled we should be as we begin Vs 39 by noticing Jesus command: "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES"

It is the Very Word of God, literal, physical, word in a book that communicates to you that is alive and all that he claims to be. SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES.

Now, the next phrases causes us to be careful. Because we read Vs 39...

"You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of me"

And I have been very disappointed to hear some good christian teachers say that the point of Jesus is: that they thought that they would receive eternal life by the searching the scriptures instead of turning to Christ. And so well meaning teachers warn us about too much attention to the Scriptures, ~~ar~~ and not enough to Jesus.

I say to you, that that is impossible. These is the only correct and true account of Jesus that I have, in the entire world. Why, eternal life is here, folks. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

That is not the point. The word "think" is not a word of "doubt" in this passage at all. He is not condemning them for thinking that. They knew that.. They had conscious knowledge of that fact. That eternal life was in the scriptures. But the point is that they did not see that Jesus Christ had fulfilled the Messianic promises of it.

So, His statement is SCREAM THE SCRIPTURES. "Because you think".. Meaning...You "know". It is a word of the mind. It wasn't a word of "doubt" at all. You know that in them are eternal life.

Well, then, know this: Those same scriptures that can give you eternal life, are testifying of Me. They knew that they were testifying of the Messiah. And they knew that out of Zion would come a deliverer who would bring ~~redde/~~ redemption and take away the sin of the world. THAT IS JESUS...THAT IS WHAT THEY DID NOT KNOW!!!

The Messiah had now come...

By the way, I think it is important for all of us to apply this command to our lives. SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES. Make sure you know who Jesus is

++++++(COULD STOP HERE)=====

Now, there are two things that I want you to know here. Two main principles (1) Number one, the words of Scripture convince us of the Messiah. They are convincing us of the Messiah. That is verse 39 to 44. And there are five things related to that.

[1] Number one, the prophecy of the O.T. The word "Scripture" in Vs 39 must refer to the O.T. For when John was writing the N.T. was not yet in completed form. So, we can search the O.T. and know that they are speaking of Jesus the Messiah. Look at Jesus and know that he fulfilled all the requirements of the O.T. Messiah.

[2] Secondly, the possession of eternal life is an important issue here.

In Vs 40 Jesus said, "you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life."

Now, they knew that the scriptures would give them eternal life, if they knew the message of it. The point of Jesus is fantastic. He is saying, "Listen I am the Messiah. And if you come to me I can give you life."

And that takes us right back to Vs 24 when He said, "that he would give eternal life." Jesus has the power to give you eternal life. But you must come to him. The Bible says that he who comes to Jesus, He (Jesus) will in no way cast out. (John 6:37). You must come to Jesus. Jesus said that you will not come to ~~me~~, therefore, you will never ~~have~~ ^{have} eternal life.

And that struck me. Because these men knew the O.T. And you can study and memorize and learn and get knowledge to the point of being a Pharisee. Who could tell you the middle letter of every book of the O.T. in Hebrew. He knew it. Some of those men had the entire Bible memorized. People tell us that that isn't possible.

Oh, listen, I remember as a Jr. High going to a Youth for Christ meeting and listening to a speaker quote the entire N.T. It was long. But he quoted every verse in the N.T. And what can be done of the N.T. can be done of the O.T.

And I am telling you that this is an important point. If you don't come to Jesus you will never have eternal life. I don't care if you memorize the entire Bible, you must come to Jesus

Now, the Bible has power. And I do believe it is good to memorize it. To get the Word of God in our hearts. And to preach the writings. But, listen, you may miss the point of those writings, if you fail to come to Jesus. And you must come to Him, if you expect to have eternal life.

[3] Third, we notice the praise of men in Vs 41. Don't expect the world to go after this. "I do not receive glory from men" said Jesus. And brother they didn't give it to him, either.

On one occasion Jesus said to the Pharisee, "You do dishonor me." They didn't bring honor to Jesus. And they are not bringing honor to him in this day, either. But, that doesn't make any difference.

A lot of us believe we have to go along because that is what is expected by our friends. Go along with the crowd. Everybody is doing it. That is not the way of Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

The issue isn't how sincere you are. The issue is the truth. I may be sincerely wrong. But, I want to know whether I am correct. Whether I am right. And I only know of ~~ones~~ one source of objective truth. And that is the Word of God. "Thy Word is truth" said Jesus. "And the truth can set you free."

(4) The fourth thing that I would like you to notice is the place of God's love in all of this. Vs 42 Jesus said, "but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves."

Now, I can't always say that. I can look at a person. But, I don't know if you are a believer or not. I take you at your word. And I trust what you say. But, I don't really know. If I see you over a period of time, I may come to a conviction that you are in Christ. But, I can't really tell just by meeting someone.

I have met people who had so much joy and peace I just thought they were Christians. But later I hear, like Jesus told in the parable of the sower. The sower went forth to sow. And when the winds of persecution came along, they did not remain. And they turned their backs on him.

But, oh, let me tell you that Jesus does. Jesus could walk up to someone and say "I know you." I know whether or not the love of God is abiding in you.

And He said to these religious leaders, important men in Israel, knowledgeable men in the O.T., He said, "you do not have the love of God in you."

You see, if you have the love of God in you, you will know of Jesus. Do you know why? Because the greatest manifestation of God's love is:

That God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son." That love was expressed best by the example of the Heavenly Father who sent Jesus to the World(1 John 3).

The Bible tells us about the greatest of God's love was based on the fact that the Father sent Jesus to us. He said, "I know you. You don't have the love of God in you, or you would believe in me." That is the point.

(5) The fiveth thing is the possibility of deception. Vs 43 and 44.

An amazing thing here. You know, the crowds do not follow Jesus. But they are going to follow someone. Jesus said, "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive me; if another shall come(another of a different kind) shall come in his own name, you will receive him."

Here is somebody who comes in his own name, on his own merits, in his own glory, and you are going to receive him.

Vs 44, "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?"

Here is an important point. If you are man centered in your outlook and perspective in life, you probable will not turn to Jesus Christ. Those who do not seek the glory and honor of God.

Romans 1 says that God created us. However, God is invisible. So, how can we understand Him? By the things that are created. But God says even though men knew that knowledge in creation, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but turn Him into a created thing."

Do you seek the honor and glory of God? Are you really an honest seeker? Maybe you are on the boundary of becoming committed to God, but are you really seeking the glory of God and his claims to your life?

(2) The Scriptures, first of all, convince us of the Messiah. But secondly, in Vs 45 to 47, the scriptures are convicting us of unbelief. Convicting us

of unbelief. Jesus said, "Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

WHAT CONVICTS US OF UNBELIEF? The Scriptures. Nothing else. The Scriptures which tell us of the Messiah, also convict us.

Do you remember in Luke chapter 16, we have another ~~sox/ax~~ story like this. The case of the rich man and Lazarus. And the rich man went to Hell and was in torment, begged God to bring someone back from the dead to tell us brother. So that they would never come to this place of torment.

And the responds of Jesus was..."Even though one would come back from the dead. If they don't believe Moses and prophets there isn't any change that they ~~going~~ going to believe in one comes back from the dead."

Even if you could see someone come back from the dead, even if you could see some miracle performed this morrowing, that isn't the reason why people are going to believe.

The Bble teaches that the Scriptures will convict us of our own unbelief. "If you don't believe in the writings of Moses, how will you believemy words."

It is an everlasting Gospel. Whether you are reading MOSES or you are reading the book of the Revelation. It is one gospel. It teaches us of the Messiah who is going to come.

And the Word of God ask us to believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them who seek him.

Do you really want to know God in your life? Do you want to be assured of eternal life? Do you want to know that you will be in heaven with God for all eternity? To know the moment that you receive Christ, you now possess that eternal life. Do you really want to know that?

Are you really seeking God's claim to you? The one who made you, do you really want to know Him?

Then YOU MUST BELIEVE THE SCRIPTURES....Or, they, one day, will accuse you in His presence....

LET US CLOSE IN PRAYER