**January 27, 2022**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES”**

**John 5:30-47**

***John 5:30, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."***

Everything Jesus did, he did at the initiative of his Father. He did not seek [his] own will but the Father’s. That, in fact, is what a life looks like when it is completely yielded to God. Jesus is saying here that Son of man or His flesh is not where the power is. His power is from His Spirit which is of God. His will is the Father's will. Jesus is in perfect harmony with the Father. One of the last statements Jesus expresses in prayer to the Father before His death on the cross is, "Nevertheless not my will but thine be done". Jesus never varied from the Father's will at all. It was His will, as well.

***John 5:31, "If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true."***

***John 5:32, "There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true."***

Jesus said there were six possible witnesses to His person (already evident in John): (1) He did not yet claim His own witness to Himself. (2) John the Baptist was a witness. (3) His works or miracles are a witness. (4) The Father witnessed to His sonship. (5) The Scriptures bear witness to Him. (6) Moses wrote of Him. By two witnesses a thing shall be established. God made this rule; He lives by His own rules. When the Father spoke from heaven at Jesus' baptism and the Dove of the Holy Spirit lit on Him, that was two witnesses. Of course, a witness is also the Word. There is no question who He is. It is proven over and over.

***John 5:33, "Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth."***

***John 5:34, "But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved."***

***John 5:35, "He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light."***

This is John the Baptist, and he is actually the third witness and Jesus is the fourth. John's whole ministry was to tell who Jesus was. John was a voice (spoken Word) in the wilderness proclaiming the coming of Christ. John was a true witness, nothing more. John's message was to those who would believe and accept Jesus as Messiah (Christ) their Saviour. Had the Jews really listened and believed John, they would have become Christians. Jesus says, "I really don't need the testimony of man, but I tell you this because you hold John the Baptist in such high esteem, and I want you to believe and be saved". This, too, is speaking of John the Baptist. Jesus wasn’t merely speaking on his own behalf. In fulfillment of Scripture, John the Baptist testified to the truth about him. John was a shining lamp, bearing testimony so that they might be saved. Though they listened to John at first, eventually they rejected him. A great number of people did believe John and were baptized. You hear nothing at all of John's personal life. He was a man with a mission for God and that is all he did. He did enlighten many to the fact that Jesus was Messiah. John the Baptist never wavered. He was faithful to death. John brought a light of the knowledge of who Jesus was. People believed him until he was beheaded. He was in his thirties when he was killed.

***John 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."***

There was a greater witness than John that testified to Jesus’s identity. That witness was Jesus’s works. No man before or since, has ever done the miracles that Jesus did.

***John 14:11 "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works sake."***

***John 21:25 says, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen."***

Jesus opened blind eyes, made the lame to walk, loosed tongues that could not speak, opened deaf ears, raised the dead, freed those possessed of demons, turned the water into wine, walked on the sea, spoke to the sea and it obeyed. You see, the works of Jesus were the greatest witness of all.

***John 5:37, "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."***

***John 5:38, "And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not."***

The miraculous signs he performed were evidence that he was the Messiah sent from the Father. So, in essence, Jesus told them, “My deeds are my validation.” Everything had been done before their eyes. Moreover, the Father also testified about Jesus, but the religious leaders had rejected this too. They didn’t have God’s word residing in [them] because they didn’t believe in his Son. The Father's voice had been heard by the disciples, so this was spoken to the doubting Jews here. The Father on two occasions said from heaven, "This is my beloved Son". The apostles Peter, James, and John heard His voice. John the Baptist heard the voice from heaven at the baptism, also. The Father witnessed, as well, as we see here. The Word in the prophecies of the Old Testament was a witness, as well. Over thirty times Jesus (Messiah) was prophesied. This is saying, "You self-righteous religious people who claim to know the Word of God, you don't know anything. You didn't believe the prophets, and you didn't believe John the Baptist."

***John 5:39, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."***

***John 5:40, "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."***

Here is another reprimand. Jesus says, "You claim to know the Scriptures, but you better go back and study them all over again. You don't know what they say. You are just reading words and you do not know what they mean. You think you have eternal life but look again. You have overlooked the one who can give you eternal life". Jesus offered salvation to the Jew first and then to the Gentile. The Jews did not accept Him as a whole. Of course, a few did, but not the great majority. They thought they had eternal life because they studied the Scriptures. Yet those very Scriptures pointed to Jesus, and they refused to go to him to have life. A person can diligently study the Bible (the written Word) and still miss Jesus (the living Word). Knowing God’s written Word is absolutely essential, but if your knowledge of it doesn’t lead you to the living Word, then you have completely missed the point. This sad fact was illustrated when Jewish leaders told the wise men that Scripture foretold the Messiah’s birth in Bethlehem, but they never bothered to make the trip to worship him.

***John 5:41, "I receive not honour from men."***

***John 5:42, "But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you."***

***John 5:43, "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."***

Jesus confronted the religious leaders with hard truth: You have no love for God within you. Why? Because Jesus had come in his Father’s name, but they wouldn’t accept him. They thought they loved God, claimed they loved God, boasted that they loved God. But they were unwilling to accept Jesus. Therefore, their professed love for God was a fraud. You simply can’t have the Father without the Son. You can’t have God without Jesus Christ. Jesus received everything but honor from men when He was on the earth, but He will come again as King of kings and Lord of lords and then they will honor Him. Man looks on the outward appearance, but Jesus looks on the heart. Jesus knows they have no love in their heart for Him. They don't love anyone but themselves. They are puffed up with pride and are jealous of Jesus. Jesus means Jehovah Saviour. Jesus explains here that there will be false Christs they will believe, because they want a fleshly ruler and not a ruler of love. Jesus was not the warrior King they wanted to overthrow the Romans and take power. Their problem was, they were looking for a ruler that would rule with iron. They will get this, but he will be antichrist.

***John 5:44, "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?"***

These religious rulers were looking for praise and honour on this earth from men. Jesus had told them they liked the upper most room at the banquets. He called them whited walls, pretending to be God's people on the outside, but actually dead inside. They were not looking for praises from God, but from man. What was keeping them from Jesus? Rather than seeking glory that comes from the only God, they were accepting glory from one another. In other words, they enjoyed being popular. Unconcerned with pleasing God, they sought to please each other.

***John 5:45, "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust."***

***John 5:46, "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me."***

***John 5:47, "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"***

Jesus told the religious leaders that he wouldn’t be their accuser. Instead, Moses, the very person whose words they were reading in the Old Testament, would accuse them before God because they hadn’t learned from him. Jesus tells them here that if they do not accept grace from Him, they will be judged by the Law of Moses. Jesus will not have to accuse them. If they are to live by the law, they will be judged by the law. No man can live up to the law. Jesus says, "Even though you say you follow Moses, you do not believe what he wrote, because he wrote of me. If you do not believe what he wrote of me, of course you will not hear what I say". The first promise of the coming of Jesus is in Moses' writings. Genesis 3:15 promises Jesus will be the seed of woman and not of man. In Exodus, nearly everything in the holy place symbolizes Jesus. Moses, Jesus told them, wrote about me. For example, Moses (who authored the books of Genesis–Deuteronomy) wrote about the Passover lamb (see Exodus 12:1-28), and John the Baptist had identified Jesus as “the Lamb of God” (1:29, 36). Moses wrote that God would “raise up a prophet” like him from among God’s people (Deuteronomy 18:15; 1: 14; Acts 7:37). But the religious leaders were unwilling to accept that Jesus spoke for God. They had read Moses; they just weren’t paying attention to him. So, if they wouldn’t believe Moses, they weren’t going to believe Jesus.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Why does Jesus say His judgment is just?
2. In verse 30, what is Jesus saying when He calls Himself Son of man?
3. In verse 31, what principle is Jesus teaching?
4. How many witnesses prove a thing?
5. What two at Jesus' baptism were enough witnesses?
6. In verse 33, who is the witness?
7. Had the Jews really believed John, they would have been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. Why had Jesus used John the Baptist as witness?
9. Who was a burning and shining light?
10. How was John killed?
11. Approximately how old was John the Baptist when he was killed?
12. What was a greater witness than John?
13. How many miracles did Jesus do?
14. Who did Jesus tell that they had never seen the face of the Father nor heard His voice?
15. Who had heard the voice of the Father?
16. Who was Jesus speaking to in verse 38?
17. What did He tell them to do in verse 39?
18. Who did Jesus say He did not receive honor from?
19. Jesus sees in their heart and sees what?
20. Whose name did Jesus come in?
21. Whose honor do these Jews seek?
22. Who will accuse them to the Father?
23. What had Moses told them that they do not believe?
24. Where is the first promise of the coming Messiah?
25. In verse 47, what two witnesses do we see?