

## I DON'T UNDERSTAND .... OR .... I WON'T BELIEVE

Introduction / Background:

In John 5:17 Jesus makes an incredible statement about His identity

The Jews understood what Jesus was claiming and charged Him with a capital crime (John 5:18)

Jesus reveals His identity and the implicit authority to heal on the Sabbath (John 5:19-30)

In verses 31-47 Jesus calls forth witnesses that verify the claims

### 1. The Testimony of John the Baptist (John 5:33-35)

A) The background on John the Baptist

> The Divine calling and authorization of John to be God's witness

The prophecy (Isaiah 40:1-3)

The birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:11-17)

The impact of his ministry (Luke 3:3-6)

John the Baptist was a "lamp" sent to draw attention to the Light (John 5:35a)

John was the cause for excitement – for a while (John 5:35b)

Maybe it was his message? (Matthew 3:5-8)

B) The deposition of John (John 5:33)

> Jesus knows these religious leaders have already met the first witness.

The Jewish leaders sent a delegation to interrogate this witness (John 1:19-22)

John's testimony (John 1:23-24)

> The request for more information (John 1:25)

John's testimony (John 1:26-27, 29-34)

C) So, the Jewish leaders understand the testimony of John – there isn't a problem with information

> But the Jews are deliberately choosing not to believe his testimony (Matthew 21:23-27)

### 2. The Testimony of the Works (John 5:36)

A) The "works" that Jesus did certainly included the miraculous

> Context: Jesus had “worked” on the Sabbath – healing a man with an infirmity (John 5:17)

The testimony of Nicodemus emphasizes this aspect of Jesus’ works (John 3:1-2)

A story about the healing of a blind man (John 9:1-4)

B) The “works” that Jesus did include but are not limited to miracles

> Notice Jesus must “finish the works the Father has given to Him” (John 5:36b)

A miracle was a “work” but Jesus’ “work” was not completed after a miracle

The “works” which the Father gave to Jesus will not be finished until His death

John 17:1-5 – what is the work Jesus has finished

On the cross He cries, “It is finished.” (John 19:28-30)

> The “works” that Jesus must finish include the work of redemption – His sinless life, death, burial, and resurrection

This understanding will help us to understand Jesus’ words in John 6:26-33

C) Why would these works serve as a greater testimony than John? (John 5:36a)

> John the Baptist pointed to the Light ..... Jesus was / is the Light

> John the Baptist will prepare the way for the Lord ..... Jesus is the Way

The works of Jesus are the central theme of the Bible (Luke 24:44-46)

A testimony the religious leaders totally missed (John 5:39)

D) How will the religious leaders respond to the testimony of the “works?”

> Unbelief, resentment, and violence (John 10:22-31)

**APPLICATION:** How are you responding to these witnesses who attest that Jesus is God and came to save you from the curse and penalty of sin?

John the Baptist said, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

Do you believe his testimony? Or are you believing that God accepts you as you are?

Matthew 5:20 – For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

How are you responding to the authoritative voice of Jesus Christ in your life?

Listen to these words of Jesus (Matthew 7:21-29)