

John 5:31-47 Living Like Jesus: Know the Point of God's Word

Jesus confronts the self-righteous Pharisees and their misconstrued use of Scripture.

They studied it to develop rules for behavior = human metrics

They studied it to debate and discuss differences

They studied it to know the Scriptures

They studied it but did not know God.

Context John 5-10

Sabbath Festival in Jerusalem	ch 5
Passover Festival in Galilee	ch 6
Tabernacles Festival in Jerusalem	ch 7-8
Hanukkah Festival in Jerusalem	ch 10

Context John 5:1-30

¹⁶So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. ¹⁷But Jesus replied, "My Father is always working, and so am I." ¹⁸So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God."

John 5:31-47

³¹"If I were to testify on my own behalf, my testimony would not be valid. ³²But someone else is also testifying about me, and I assure you that everything he says about me is true. ³³In fact, you sent investigators to listen to John the Baptist, and his testimony about me was true. ³⁴Of course, I have no need of human witnesses, but I say these things so you might be saved. ³⁵John was like a burning and shining lamp, and you were excited for a while about his message. ³⁶But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me. ³⁷And the Father who sent me has testified about me himself. You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face, ³⁸and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one he sent to you. ³⁹"You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! ⁴⁰Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life. ⁴¹"Your approval means nothing to me, ⁴²because I know you don't have God's love within you. ⁴³For I have come to you in my Father's name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them. ⁴⁴No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God. ⁴⁵"Yet it isn't I who will accuse you before the Father. Moses will accuse you! Yes, Moses, in whom you put your hopes. ⁴⁶If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. ⁴⁷But since you don't believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

Why read the Bible? Because in it we get to find and know Jesus = the full life only He offers.

Jesus makes the case for His Identity based on God's Word

³¹"If I were to testify on my own behalf, my testimony would not be valid.

A Personal witness = evidence of a transformed life

"John was like a burning and shining lamp"

The Biblical witness = evidence of God's revelation

"my teaching and miracles...The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me."

Jesus makes the case for the Authority of Scripture as God's Word

³⁴Of course, I have no need of human witnesses, but I say these things so you might be saved...³⁷And the Father who sent me has testified about me himself. You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face, ³⁸and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me... But the Scriptures point to me!"

2Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."

The Bible is not offering advice, not providing some best practices for us to choose from, it is the authoritative Word of God telling us how things really are, what life is all about, why we are here, where all life is going, how to know the God who made us, how to enjoy and invest the time we get.

Jesus makes the case for the Point of Scripture as God's Word

"You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! ⁴⁰Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life. Your approval means nothing to me, ⁴²because I know you don't have God's love within you."

Every part of Scripture points us to Jesus and His call upon our lives to follow Him: transformation not information.

"So with Christ. It is one thing to know doctrines of the incarnation and the atonement and a hundred others. It is another, more searching matter to know His heart for you." Ortlund, Gentle and Lowly