

## 102520 Growth Group Study

### Jesus on Trial

#### John 5:31-47



**Background:** The Jewish authorities have begun prosecuting Jesus on charges of blasphemy because he is "making himself equal with God" (5:18). In turn, Jesus has entered his defense. He and His Father are working together in dependent unity. Some of this work includes giving life and pronouncing judgment, quite audacious claims for any human to make. As you can imagine, everyone standing there would be asking Jesus for evidence for these audacious claims. Knowing this, Jesus now calls to the stand three witnesses for his defense, but also offers a closing argument rebuking these authorities. In the end, we must give our verdict. Will we pronounce Jesus innocent or guilty?

#### **Sermon Text (ESV):**

#### **John 5:31-47**

*31 If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. 32 There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. 33 You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. 35 He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. 36 But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. 37 And the Father who sent me has himself borne*

*witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, 38 and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. 39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. 41 I do not receive glory from people. 42 But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? 45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"*

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Preparation
  - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
  - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
  - The witnesses Jesus referenced during this John 5 teaching were the Father, John the Baptist, Jesus's works/signs, and the Scriptures. Which witness(es) stood out most or made the most impact on you? Why?
  - Like the religious authorities how do you/we sometimes "miss the point" (i.e., Jesus) as we attempt to live out our Christian faith?
  - Just said that both He and the Father are working, and that continues through to today as the Holy Spirit empowers & encourages believers to work for His glory today. How are you/we working for Him? How have you seen God at work in your home, our church, our community recently?
  - How did the religious authorities react to Jesus's "prosecution", as He brought down charges of vainglory (pride) and not following/listening to Moses? How do you react/respond when faced with an accurate assessment of sin in your life?
  - Now that Jesus has "rested his case", we have an opportunity to respond to Him. How do you typically respond? How would you like to respond to Jesus?
    - Like the religious authorities: God in a box, angry/upset when Jesus does not "behave" as they believe he should, or things don't align with our own perception of reality

- Like the lame man: Instead of wanting to get well, too focused on own brokenness to change
- In trust: Participating with Jesus, believing in His words, because His words make things happen and do not come back void