

Healing At the Pool of Bethesda

John 5:30-47

Part 4

John 5:30 "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just [right], because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

- **Jesus will use the pronoun “I” or “Me” some 9 times in verses 30-32 of this chapter.**
 - **He used “Son” or “Son of man” or “Son of God” to refer to Him in verses 25-28.**
1. Jesus strongly emphasized He did not act on His “own initiative,” that is, by His own authority.
 - a. The KJV translates “I can of mine own self do nothing.” NIV has “By myself I can do nothing.”
 - b. The Greek literally has “I cannot to do anything from myself.”
 - c. The meaning is not that He could do nothing, but **He always acted by the Father’s authority.** (Matt. 28:18).
 2. He had been sent to do the Father’s will and this was exactly what He was doing. (Jn. 4:34; 6:38; 8:29).

John 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 8:29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

3. His authority had come from the Father, and He was always obedient to Him.
4. Jesus left us a wonderful example of **always doing the will of His Father.**
5. We are tempted by Satan to foolishly do our will or the will of others, but Jesus taught us to do the will of God in our lives. (Matt. 6:9-10).

Matt 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Matt 6:10 'Your kingdom come. **Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.**

6. James, the Lord’s brother, gave this inspired advice to some merchants who were planning the future without the will of God on their hearts and minds. (Jas. 4:15).

James 4:15 Instead, {you ought} to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."

7. God’s will is always perfect and meant to lead to our eternal salvation!
8. God does not withhold “good things” leading to salvation from His children. (Psa. 84:11).

Ps 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; **No good thing does He withhold**

from those who walk uprightly.

Witness of Christ

John 5:31 "If I alone testify about Myself [with no other witness], My testimony is not true.

- The Greek “alethes” [ah lay **thace**] translated “true” means the testimony of one was not legally acceptable to verify something as true.
 - This was a cautionary measure to protect one accused of wrongdoing.
1. According to the Law of Moses the testimony of one person was not sufficient legally to substantiate the truth.
 2. It required two or more witnesses. (Num. 35:31; Deut. 17:6; 19:15; Jn. 8:12,13).

Num. 35:31 'If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death at the evidence of witnesses, but no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

Deut. 17:6 "On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.

Deut. 19:15 "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.

Jn. 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Jn. 8:13 So the Pharisees said to Him, "You are testifying about Yourself; Your testimony is not true."

3. Legally His testimony was not regarded as substantiated without two or more other witnesses.
4. Jesus proceeded to present the most reliable witnesses.

God's Witness

1st Witness

John 5:32 "There is another who testifies of Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true.

1. Jesus contends “another” testified concerning His identity.
 - a. He did not name the “another,” but it is clear the “another” is God.
 - b. The context shows “another” should be viewed as “Another,” that is, God the Father.
2. No one could doubt the truthfulness of the Father's testimony. (Heb. 6:18).

Heb 6:18 so that by two unchangeable things in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

3. John 5:34 reveals “another” refers to God, the Father.

Jn. 5:34 "But the testimony which **I receive is not from man**, but I say these things so that you may be saved.

4. The same truth is presented again in John 5:37-38.

Jn. 5:37 "And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form.

John 5:38 "You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent. See also Jn. 12:49-50.

Witness of John 2nd Witness

John 5:33 "You [Jewish leaders] have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth.

- They had sent a delegation to John to inquire about Jesus. (Jn. 1:29-38).
- 1. John had earlier made reference to the witness of John the Baptist who proclaimed Jesus was God's Son, the Lamb of God. (Jn. 1:6-8, 15, 19-36; 3:25-26).
- 2. John the Baptist was the second witness of Jesus.
- 3. "The truth" here refers to Christ. (Jn. 14:6).

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

- 4. If they had believed and accepted John, they would have embraced Christ and the words of truth He proclaimed.

John 5:34"But the testimony [witness] which I receive is not from man [only], but I say these things so that you may be saved.

- 1. Verse 34 is likely an ellipsis meaning **Jesus did not rely only on human testimony.**
- 2. Jesus did receive the witness of men [John the Baptist, the apostles and others], but the witness of men was not the highest witness.
- 3. The highest witness is from God. (1 Jn. 5:9).

1 Jn. 5:9 If we receive the testimony of men, **the testimony of God is greater**; for the testimony of God is this, that He has testified concerning His Son.

- 4. Jesus was saying "these things" so that they might be saved.
- 5. The salvation of man is why Jesus came into the world. (Lk. 19:10).

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

John 5:35 "He was the lamp that was burning and was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.

- 1. John the Baptist was a burning and shining light.
 - a. The verb "was" may mean John was already dead or was in prison.
 - b. His work was past, but it was of the utmost importance.

2. John the apostle revealed John the Baptist had affirmed the identity of Jesus, and guided the multitudes to Jesus “the light of the world.” (Jn. 1:6-8).

Jn. 1:6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.

Jn. 1:7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.

Jn. 1:8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. **Jesus is the Light.** (Jn. 8:12).

3. Jesus affirmed they had rejoiced “for a while in his light.” (Jn. 5:35).

- a. The multitudes anxiously gathered to hear John who proclaimed the exciting news that the kingdom was near. (Matt. 3:1-2).
- b. The Jewish leaders ignored John’s call to repentance and did not repent and come to Christ.
- c. John had refused to baptize those who did not manifest repentance. (Matt. 3:7-9).

Matt 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

Matt 3:8 "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;

Matt 3:9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

- d. The preaching of John the Baptist and Christ led to the rejoicing of the multitude.

1) They were excited the kingdom was near. (Matt. 3:2; 4:17).

2) Many rejected the mandate for them to repent and refused to believe the Messiah would die for the sins of men.

3) They wanted a living, breathing king who would reign on earth on David’s throne.

4) They wanted an earthly king, not a heavenly one!

5) They did not understand the Messiah would reign in heaven and His reign would be in their hearts - not on an earthly throne. (Acts 2:33; Lk. 17:20-21).

Acts 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

Luke 17:20 Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed;

Luke 17:21 nor will they say, 'Look, here {it is!}' or, 'There {it is!}' For behold, **the kingdom of God is in your midst.**"

6) The NKJV and ASV translate “the kingdom of God is within you.”

- The Greek preposition here is “entos” and can be translated “in the midst” or “within” in Luke 17:21.
- Jesus, the Messiah, God’s anointed king, was in their midst. He would not be an earthly king, but a heavenly one. (Jn. 18:36).

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, **My kingdom is not of this realm.**"

- Jesus is now reigning in heaven and “within” the hearts of His followers “having been exalted to the right hand of God.” (Acts 2:33; Heb. 1:3). See Matt. 28:18.
- A person manifests Jesus reigns in his/her heart by loving and obeying Him.

Witness of Jesus' Works 3rd Witness

John 5:36 "But the testimony which I have is greater than *the testimony of John*; for the works [miracles] which the Father has given Me to accomplish--the very works that I do--testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.

1. The works of Jesus, the works which the Father gave Him to accomplish, were powerful evidence of His Deity.
2. These works “the Father” had given Him to accomplish were even a greater testimony to His Deity than the witness of John.
 - a. Jesus used the word “works” to describe His miracles. (Jn. 5:20; 7:3,21; 10:25,32, 37, 38; 14:10, 11; 15:24).
 - b. John the apostle described the miracles of Jesus as “signs.”
 - c. The “signs” of Jesus were miraculous and conclusive proof He was from the Father.
3. God would not have done these signs through an imposter.
 - a. God does not deceive us, but the devil does.
 - b. God worked these signs through His beloved Son. (Matt. 3:17; 17:5).
4. Nicodemus recognized the fact that God was working “signs” by the power of God. (Jn. 3:1-2).

John 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;

John 3:2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God {as} a teacher; **for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.**"

- a. He had heard or witnessed or both some of the signs of Jesus. (Jn. 2:23).

John 2:23 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.

- b. The words “we know” are not based on hearsay, but are based on what Nicodemus had witnessed and other trustworthy people had witnessed. See Nicodemus (Jn. 19:39).
5. Jesus had given them strong, indisputable evidence that He was from God, but rather than accept His works they manifested they hated both the Father and the Son. (Jn. 15:24).

John 15:24 "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well.

- a. The word “hated” is significant.
- b. They were so angered by the miracles of Jesus [that they could not deny] that they “hated” Jesus and sought to kill him.

- c. As studied in part 1 in this series of lessons on Jesus healing the crippled man, they could not deny the miracles of Jesus.
 - d. They attributed the miracles of Jesus to the devil working in Him. (Matt. 12:24).
 - e. By hating Jesus, they manifested they “hated” His Father who had sent Him.
6. His words and works were the words and works of the Father. (Jn. 14:10).

John 14:10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

Witness of the Father

A Second Time Jesus Appealed To His First Witness

John 5:37 "And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form.

- God has testified of Jesus through the Scriptures, His virgin birth, at His baptism and through the “works” miracles of His Son.
1. God did testify of Jesus through the Old Testament Scriptures, John the Baptist, the baptism of Jesus, the miracles of Jesus, the transfiguration, etc.
 2. They had not heard the voice of God “at any time” “nor seen His form” “at any time.”
 - a. Moses had heard God’s voice. (Exod. 33:11).

Ex 33:11 Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

- b. They had refused to hearken to God’s words spoken through Moses and refused to hear and obey God’s words spoken through His Son.
- c. If they had heard God’s voice at any time, they would have received Christ. (Jn. 17:14).

John 17:14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

3. They had never “seen His form” speaking of God the Father.
 - a. No one has seen God as He is (Jn. 1:18).

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained {Him.}

- b. But Abraham and Moses did see God in a form. (Gen. 18:1, 22: 19:1; Exod. 33:20-23).
 - c. Jesus had both seen and heard the Father having been with Him forever in heaven.
4. They were rejecting the One who had seen God and had been sent as His spokesman.

John 5:38 "You do not have His [God's] word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him [Me] whom He sent.

- God's word was not in their hearts. (Psa. 119:11).
- 1. It was clear God's word was not abiding in them and they manifested this by rejecting the One whom God had sent.
- 2. They kept rejecting Christ despite all the evidence God gave that Jesus was His Son.
- 3. They "hated" Jesus and refused to accept any evidence Jesus was God's beloved Son and the promised Messiah.
- 4. They rejected the testimony of John the Baptist, the teachings and signs of Jesus and the testimony of those healed by Jesus.

Conclusion.

1. In part 5 of this lesson on the healing of the crippled man at Bethesda, we will study another powerful witness that Jesus had been sent by God and was truly "the Christ, the Son of God."
2. We will begin with John 5:39 and study the powerful witness of the Scriptures that Jesus is God's Son and the only source or way to heaven.

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