



CONNECTING
PEOPLE TO GOD | PEOPLE TO PEOPLE | PEOPLE TO OUTREACH

Discussion Questions: **John 5:31-47**

Our previous study presents Jesus' defense of His identity through a fourfold witness: John the Baptist, His works, the Father, and the Scriptures. The study frames the passage around the human desire for validation and then shows how Jesus' claims are supported by multiple witnesses in a way that resonates with the biblical legal principle that a matter is established by two or three witnesses. It emphasizes John as a lamp pointing to Christ, Jesus' miracles and completed work as evidence of the Father's mission, the Father's own revelatory testimony at Jesus' baptism and transfiguration, and the Scriptures—including Moses—as witnesses that point to the Messiah. The central warning of the passage is that the problem was not a lack of evidence, but an unwillingness to believe: the religious leaders sought human honor, resisted the testimony God had given, and failed to come to Jesus for life.

1. Where do people most often look for validation today, and why can those sources be unreliable?

2. Why does Jesus appeal to multiple witnesses in John 5:31–47 instead of simply asking people to accept His claims about Himself?

3. How does the Old Testament principle of “two or three witnesses” help us understand the structure of Jesus' argument?

4. What does it mean to “judge with righteous judgment,” and how can personal bias or appearances distort the way we evaluate truth?

5. What is the significance of Jesus calling John the Baptist a “burning and shining lamp,” and how is a lamp different from the true Light?

6. In what ways did Jesus’ works and miracles function as evidence that He had been sent by the Father?

7. How does the Father’s testimony at Jesus’ baptism and transfiguration strengthen the case for Jesus’ identity?

8. How can someone know the Scriptures well and still miss the One to whom the Scriptures point?

9. According to verses 40–44, what heart issues can keep a person from believing in Jesus even when the evidence is present?

10. Jesus says that Moses wrote about Him. How should that change the way we read the Old Testament and understand its relationship to Christ?

11. Why do you think the religious leaders were willing to receive honor from one another, yet unwilling to receive Jesus? What does that reveal about the danger of seeking human approval?

12. If the evidence for Jesus was so substantial—John the Baptist, His works, the Father, and the Scriptures—why do you think some people still refused to believe, and what does that teach us about the role of the heart in responding to truth?
