

Judging Jesus  
John 5:1-47  
Bethany Assembly of God  
11/19/2023

### **Introduction**

Imagine that you are on a jury in a courtroom. You are responsible for deciding a very difficult, very serious case. You'll hear a summary of the crime, the defendant will speak on his own behalf, witnesses will be called, and then, a verdict must be given. The lawyer for the defendant rises to address the jury and describe the case. In this case, the lawyer is John. He looks at you and says, "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you have before you a man who has made some shocking claims. In fact, He has claimed to have authority over the Sabbath, the rest day of the Jews, and even placed himself on equal footing to God. I believe we can all agree that these claims are outrageous and deserve the most severe penalty...unless they are true. It is my intent to demonstrate to you that, not only are the claims true, but that actually, Jesus is not the one on trial. You are, and the decision you make about what to do with Jesus will be the decision between life and death, blessing and judgment. **You must make a decision about Jesus.**"

#### **1. You can live in Jesus or be judged by Him.** See John 5:19-30

Through Jesus, God has made Himself known. And because the Father is the Creator, the Son has the power of life.

- You may think you have Jesus' life in your hands as you decide what to do with Him, but He boldly claims that actually, it's the other way around: He has your life in His hands. God is the Creator and as such, He has life in Himself. He gave us life so that we could know Him, love Him, and do His will. To reject Him is to be judged and have death.

#### **2. You should believe the testimony about Jesus.**

Jesus' own testimony is that He is doing the works of the Father, that He gives life and that He is the measure by which we will all be judged. Then, Jesus began to call witnesses to the stand. See John 5:31-40; Deuteronomy 18:15; Isaiah 35:5-6; Daniel 7:13.

- When we read God's Word, when we hear it preached, we are not merely reading a book or hearing the words of men. Instead, we come to the testimony of God, revealed through Jesus.
- When we come to the Word of God, we meet the living Jesus who will not be conformed to our ideas and desires. Instead, we come to be conformed to the eternal Word of God revealed through the testimony of the Scripture.

#### **3. You can receive the praise of people or the praise of God.** See John 5:41-47.

In the last few verses of our passage Jesus turns the tables on the religious leaders, and perhaps on us, revealing motives that we don't want exposed and indicating that this isn't His trial, it's ours. The religious leaders' unbelief was not for lack of evidence, but deliberate. They did not want to believe because they didn't really love God. What they loved was their position and the admiration of people.

### **Conclusion**

The decision you make about Jesus is the most important decision you will ever make. And He is working in you now to draw you to Himself. Will you believe and receive eternal life?