

# The Witness of Christ Rejected

## *John 5:1-47*

### I. THE HEALING OF THE LAME MAN (John 5:1-16)

#### A. The Occasion (John 5:1)

1. A feast of the Jews
2. A trip to Jerusalem (Deuteronomy 16:16)

#### B. The Location (John 5:2)

1. At Jerusalem
2. By the sheep market
3. At a pool
  - a. Called Bethesda; meaning *house of mercy*
  - b. With five porches

#### C. The Need – “*a great multitude*” (John 5:3)

1. All sick
  - a. Impotent – without strength (Romans 5:6)
  - b. Blind – without sight (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)
  - c. Halt – without steadiness
  - d. Withered – without full growth
2. All waiting

#### D. The Expectation (John 5:4)

1. An angel (Hebrews 1:13-14)
  - a. To go into the pool
  - b. To trouble the water
2. A cure
  - a. To the first who stepped in
  - b. To be made whole

#### E. A Certain Man (John 5:5-9)

1. His helpless condition (John 5:5-7)
  - a. 38 years without health (John 5:5-6)

- b. 38 years without help (John 5:7; Psalm 142:4; Acts 8:30-31; Romans 10:13-17)
  - c. Note: Israel wandered 38 years in the wilderness after the rebellion of the spies and congregation (Deuteronomy 2:14).
  - 2. His merciful Deliverer (John 5:8)
    - a. Rise.
    - b. Take up your bed.
    - c. Walk.
  - 3. His sudden change (John 5:9)
    - a. No waiting – immediately (Acts 3:6-7; Ephesians 1:13)
    - b. No water – no works (Ephesians 2:8-9)
    - c. No winning – no competition (John 3:16)
- F. The Hostility of the Jews (John 5:10-16)
- 1. The accusation of the Jews (John 5:10)
    - a. It is the Sabbath day
    - b. It is not lawful to carry your bed.
      - (1) This is true concerning bundles of merchandise (Jeremiah 17:21-22; Nehemiah 13:19).
      - (2) But this man had a bed probably consisting of a rough blanket or garment.
  - 2. The answer of the man (John 5:11-13)
    - a. He was obeying the One who healed him (John 5:11; Matthew 12:8).
    - b. They wanted the identity of the One who healed him (John 5:12).
    - c. He did not know the identity of his healer (John 5:13).
      - (1) Christ had left.
      - (2) Because a multitude was there
  - 3. The revelation of the Christ (John 5:14)
    - a. He reveals Himself to the man.
    - b. He admonishes the man to sin no more (John 8:11).
    - c. Note: the man was healed before he even knew who Jesus was, much less was able to believe on Him.
  - 4. The testimony of the man (John 5:15)
    - a. He spoke to the Jews.
    - b. He identified Jesus as his healer.
  - 5. The reaction of the Jews (John 5:16)
    - a. They determined to persecute Jesus.
    - b. They sought to slay Jesus.
    - c. Their cause is that Jesus did these things on the Sabbath day.

II. THE ONENESS OF CHRIST WITH THE FATHER (John 5:17-30)

A. One in Service (John 5:17-19)

1. His personal relationship – “My Father” (John 5:17; John 2:16; Luke 2:49)
2. His working relationship (John 5:17; John 14:10)
3. His identical relationship (John 5:18) – brings the wrath of the Jews
  - a. Because He broke the Sabbath
  - b. Because He made Himself equal with God (John 10:30-33)
4. His unifying relationship (John 5:19)
  - a. He does nothing of Himself (John 5:19, 30).
  - b. He does only what the Father does (John 5:19).
  - c. Note: This passage does not teach the inability of the Son, but the impossibility of separating the Son from the Father.
  - d. In His oneness with the will of the Father and complete submission to Him, Jesus is the perfect example to the believer (Philippians 2:5-8).

B. One in Knowledge (John 5:20)

1. Because of love (John 3:35)
2. Revealing all things (Matthew 11:27)
3. Greater works to come (John 14:12)

C. One in Resurrection Power (John 5:21)

1. As the Father (Acts 2:22-24)
2. So the Son (John 10:17-18)

D. One in Judgment (John 5:22)

1. Not the Father
2. But the Son
3. But not in the first coming of the Son (John 12:47)
4. Note: Although the Father and Son are equal in authority, they may be diverse in practice. Their works may also change according to time.

E. One in Honor (John 5:23)

1. As the Father
  - a. Positive – should be honored
  - b. With equality – honored as the Son
2. With the Father
  - a. Negative – to refuse to honor the Son
  - b. Without distinction – is to refuse to honor the Father

F. One in Saving Power (John 5:24-29)

1. To give everlasting life (John 5:24-26)
  - a. As the result of believing (John 5:24)
    - (1) The hearing of the word
    - (2) The believing on the Father
    - (3) The possession of everlasting life (John 3:15-16; Romans 6:23)
      - a) A present possession
      - b) Impossible to have today and lose tomorrow
    - (4) The deliverance from condemnation (Romans 8:1, 33-34)
    - (5) The passing from death to life (Romans 5:17; 2 Timothy 1:10)
  - b. With the reward of resurrection (John 5:25; 1 Thessalonians 4:16)
    - (1) The hour of resurrection
      - a) It is coming.
      - b) It now is.
    - (2) The dead
      - a) Shall hear the voice of the Son
      - b) Shall live
  - c. Through the power of Christ (John 5:26; John 1:4; John 14:19)
    - (1) The Father has life in Himself.
    - (2) The Son given to have life in Himself
2. To execute judgment (John 5:27-29; Acts 17:31)
  - a. As the Son of man (John 5:27; Hebrews 2:14-18)
  - b. At the time of resurrection (John 5:28-29)
    - (1) The resurrection of the dead (John 5:28)
      - a) In the hour to come
      - b) When those in the graves hear His voice
    - (2) The two kinds of resurrection (John 5:29; 2 Timothy 4:1)
      - a) The resurrection of life (Revelation 20:5-6)
      - b) The resurrection of damnation (Revelation 20:11-15)

G. One in Will (John 5:30)

1. Not distinct in judgment – “as I hear, I judge”
2. Not distinct in will – “I seek not mine own will” (John 4:34; Hebrews 10:5-7)

III. THE WITNESS TO THE DEITY OF CHRIST (John 5:31-47)

A. His Witness Concerning Himself (John 5:31)

1. The testimony of Christ (John 8:12-18)
2. The need for two witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15; 2 Corinthians 13:1)

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B. The Witness of John the Baptist (John 5:32-35)

1. A second witness (John 5:32)
2. A true witness (John 5:32)
3. A confirmed witness (John 5:33) – you sent unto him and proved that you thought he was a reliable witness (John 1:19-29).
4. An unnecessary witness (John 5:34-35) – unnecessary in the sense that more and greater witnesses are available
  - a. The testimony of men not needed to verify the ministry and deity of Christ (John 5:34)
  - b. But salvation is so important that the proofs accepted by men need to be given (John 5:34).
  - c. But the testimony of John was valued by the Jews for a time (John 5:35).
    - (1) As a burning and shining light
    - (2) As a light you rejoiced in for a season

C. The Witness of His Works (John 5:36)

1. Greater than the witness of John
2. Given by the Father to the Son
  - a. As a job to be finished
  - b. As a witness that the Father sent Him

D. The Witness of the Father (John 5:37-38)

1. The testimony of the Father (John 5:37)
  - a. At the baptism of Christ (Matthew 3:16-17)
  - b. At the transfiguration of Christ (Matthew 17:5-6)
  - c. At the triumphal entry of Christ (John 12:28-30)
2. The ignorance of the Jews (John 5:37)
  - a. Not hearing His voice
  - b. Not seeing His shape
3. The rejection of the Jews (John 5:38)
  - a. The absence of the abiding word (John 8:47)
  - b. Their denial of the Sent One (John 1:11)

E. The Witness of the Scriptures (John 5:39-47)

1. The testimony of scripture (John 5:39)
  - a. They are worthy to be searched (Jeremiah 15:16).
  - b. They are the source of eternal life (1Peter 1:23; James 1:18, 21).
  - c. They are the true witness of the Son (Luke 24:27, 44; Hebrews 10:7).

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2. The rejection of the Jews (John 5:40-47)
    - a. Their rejection of God's life (John 5:40)
      - (1) They will not come to the Son.
      - (2) They will not receive eternal life.
    - b. Their rejection of God's love (John 5:41-42)
      - (1) The divine honor of the Son (John 5:41)
      - (2) The absence of love in the Jews (John 5:42)
      - (3) Note: the assumption is that they cannot receive the Son of God if they do not know His love.
    - c. Their rejection of God's Son (John 5:43-44)
      - (1) Their rejection of Him who comes in the name of the Father (John 5:43)
      - (2) Their acceptance of those who come in their own name (John 5:43; Matthew 24:5; 1John 4:1-3)
      - (3) The fatal flaw in their ability to believe (John 5:44)
        - a) They receive honor one of another.
        - b) They do not seek the honor that comes only from God.
        - c) Note: it is a question of authority. Because man is their authority for truth, they cannot find the truth. Truth is found only when we have the correct authority for truth.
    - d. Their rejection of God's law (John 5:45-47)
      - (1) The accusation of Moses against them (John 5:45)
        - a) He will accuse them to the Father.
        - b) He is the one in whom they trust.
      - (2) Their rejection of the writings of Moses (John 5:46-47)
        - a) Seen in their rejection of Christ (John 5:46)
          - 1) Proves their unbelief of Moses
          - 2) Since Moses wrote of Christ
        - b) Confirmed their rejection of Christ (John 5:47)
          - 1) Since they believe not the writings of Moses
          - 2) They could not believe the words of Jesus.