

Gospel of John (lesson 16)

In this lesson, Jesus confronts the religious leaders refusal to believe he is the Messiah. Jesus points to God the Father and Moses as witness to who he is.

John 5:31-47

31 “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not [valid] true. 32 There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.

Who is the other person bearing witness of Jesus in verse 32?

33 You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

The people went to John the Baptist for the verification of Jesus. Jesus is not counting on John's testimony about his validity. The purpose of mentioning it at all is so they can be saved.

35 He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.

John the Baptist's ministry was a light to the people, showing God's favor on them when they were being baptized in obedience to God. This time of refreshing from God did not last long.

36 But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

Jesus validation of his ministry is the works (miracles) the Father has given Jesus to do. They are the proof that God the Father sent him.

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

God the Father revealed himself through the miracles that Jesus did and in this way validated Jesus as the Messiah.

38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

Now Jesus is chastising the religious leaders for not realizing the Messiah has come.

39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

They think they have eternal life from the scriptures, but they don't understand that eternal life is in Jesus. The scriptures point to Jesus for their salvation.

Gospel of John (lesson 16)

41 “I do not receive honor from men. 42 But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you.

Jesus is hammering home his point.

43 I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

This predicts the rejection of Jesus, and the acceptance of a false Messiah.

44 How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God?

They look for honor from each other when they should be looking for honor from God.

45 Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust.

They all traced their heritage to Moses and claimed the blessings that God promised through Moses. They fail to understand that Moses accuses them because they do not follow God's instructions in their heart. Jesus did not come to accuse, Moses words are doing the accusing.

46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

Moses wrote about the Messiah, but they were not obeying Moses' writings, and therefore did not understand who Jesus was. They could not receive Jesus as the Messiah because they did not receive Moses' words.

We must allow the Holy Spirit to validate our witness when we minister to people. This is the only way we can prove that we genuine. God is the miracle worker, we are just ambassadors.