

## Week 13

### DIETY OF JESUS 2

In the process of giving a discourse on why He had the authority to heal on the Sabbath Jesus called up several witness to His divinity. According to Jewish law truth had to be established by two or three witnesses, Deuteronomy 17:6

V33 Jesus said “You have sent to John and he testified to the truth”. The first witness is John the Baptist; he was a reflector of light, not the Light.

V36 But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish-the very works that I do- testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.

He cited His works as a witness-the work Jesus does in us is still bearing a testimony to Him.

V37 “And the Father Who has sent me, He has testifies of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.”

The third witness is God the Father

God the Father gave a witness to His Son at Jesus’ baptism (Matthew 3:16-17), on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5) and other places in the gospels. To recognize Jesus is to realize His divine origin. To believe in Jesus is to believe in the God Who sent Him.

The Jews to whom Jesus was speaking could have experienced these special revelations. But now God is revealing Himself to them in His Son, the greatest of all His manifestations was standing before their eyes-Jesus, the Word, God’s visible expression of Himself to His people.

Even though these men may not have had revealed some of these manifestations, they had His Word, just the same as we do. That Word was not in their hearts or they would have recognized the One God sent.

V39 Jesus said, “you search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me.

This could be translated, "You research the scriptures". Just as today, many study or research the scriptures with the attitude of so-called "higher criticism", that is to analyze what to believe, what may or may not be true. The entire bible is the inerrant, inspired Word of God. Jesus said they thought they would have eternal life if they did this. Studying the scriptures we can meet the source of life: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus said: "These are the scriptures that testify about me". If you fail to see this testimony you miss the purpose of the scriptures altogether. If there were no such person as Jesus, the scriptures would have no meaning.

V40 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. Jesus said, "You refuse to come to Me to have life"-to reject Jesus, is to reject life because He is the giver of eternal life. Religion does not give life, Jesus gives life. All the traditions and rituals you can think up and follow will not grant life. This is not my opinion, this is quoting Jesus.

Notice that Jesus will sum up this address by charging the Jews with 4 sins;

- 1) They do not have the will, desire or motivation to come to Him, their Messiah
- 2) They lack love for God
- 3) They prefer and need the praise and honor of other men
- 4) They lack faith in the writings of Moses, those writings include the first 5 books of the bible

The plain truth of this is He knows the state of their hearts and yours and mine, and He knows they do not love God. In other words, Jesus says, "you profess to worship the one true God but you show by your conduct, you do not really love Him". Or "if you really loved God like you say you do, you would gladly receive Me, His Son".

Then He gave this example; if someone shows up and does miracles and signs to show off and act important-you see them on TV all the time-or to get glory for himself, you receive him and believe him.

"You reject Me the true Son of God and receive any false teacher who comes along, this proves you do not love God."

V44 Jesus said, “How can you believe when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that is from the One and only God?”

Here is a principle to keep in your mind; you are not very likely to believe God if you are eager to please men. Also the need to please yourself can interfere. Let your daily prayer be; give me a heart to please You more than myself or anyone else.

Think this through for a minute, Jesus was addressing the Sanhedrin, with all their titles, robes and honors, the most important ruling council of the Jews. He said they desired the praise and honor of other men more than anything else. Jesus accusation of insincerity must have been very convicting and stinging to these self-righteous men.

Friend, whose approval are you seeking? The religious leaders of Israel enjoyed great prestige but their stamp of approval meant nothing to Jesus. He was concerned about God’s approval. If you have God’s approval, you have everything. You get God’s approval by believing and worshiping His Son Jesus.

V45 “Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope.”

Another way of saying this: “Moses writings, (called the Torah, the first 5 books of the bible), which are read daily in the synagogue are a constant witness to your unbelief”.

Exactly which scriptures Jesus was referring to here I do not know but the first five books of the bible-Genesis through Deuteronomy contain direct and indirect prophecies about Jesus in greater numbers than we could ever fathom and no doubt when we are in heaven those things will still be being revealed.

Friend, have you read the Old Testament? Do you know the writings of Moses? Let me suggest you get a chronological bible and begin reading. This is a great tool because the Old Testament is not in chronological order and it is easy to lose the sense of the time of events. With a chronological bible all the events, the psalms and the prophets are in order so you can understand it so much better. My

favorite is the ONE-YEAR CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE published by Tyndale. It is divided into 365 readings and this would be an excellent time to begin reading it daily.

Please do not miss the facts here; Jesus referred to Moses as a real living person, who was a matter of history, lived and wrote books and his true and genuine writings are given authority by Jesus.

Moses wrote down Genesis and the story of Creation, probably as it was dictated to him by God. 2 Peter 1:21 "For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." If you have decided to disbelieve Creation as written by Moses then you are also, like the Jewish leaders we are reading about here, disbelieving Moses and thus Jesus. In this case please remember Hebrews 11:3-by faith we believe that God created the earth.

To say that Jesus did not really mean to say He believed in the historical record of Moses and his writings is to charge Jesus with dishonesty.

Do you see why you must decide whether you are going to take God at His Word; to decide you will pick and choose from the bible is to not believe it at all?

V47 Jesus said, "If you do not believe his (Moses) writings, how will you believe My words?"

This verse is an extension of the thought contained in the preceding one and a rather sad conclusion of the entire discourse.

Jesus again says as much as "if you have no real faith in the things written in your Scriptures by Moses then how can you believe Me, the One he was writing about?" The Greek word here for writings is the same word translated as letters in Luke. It seems to speak of the verbal inspiration of the scriptures by God as letters dictated to Moses. After all, how would Moses know about the creation events if God had not told him?

Friends, you cannot divide Moses and Jesus. If you do not believe one, you will soon find you do not believe the other. Another way of

putting it, if you will not have the Old Testament you will soon not have the New Testament.

Isn't it interesting that there is no word about the effect this discourse had on those who heard it?

I know there were those present who did believe that Jesus was exactly Who He said He was, the only begotten Son of God, but they did not want Him to rule over them, they did not want to surrender their lives to His rule, they did not want to take up their cross, deny themselves and follow Him. (Luke 19:14) Is this where you are? It's a very dangerous place to be. He is either LORD of all or He is not LORD at all.