



Lesson #18

Identification is important today!

We know each other by what we see and hear!...?

Anywhere you go, anywhere you buy, anywhere you are trying to move or seek a job, IDENTIFICATION IS IMPORTANT!

Your life is controlled by your ID!

- You can't purchase a car...You can't attend school...You can't fly...You can't marry...You can't get a driver's license...You can't make it today's society/the world in which we live WITHOUT AN ID!!

Jesus is speaking to the Jewish leaders in the 5th chapter of John and He is going against their orthodox rules/regulations/traditions.

Jesus was performing the miraculous (healing the sick, turning water into wine, raising to life from being on his death bed an official Roman officer's son, telling a wayward woman all about her sinful life, healing the paralytic on the Sabbath, etc.). The Jewish leaders did not like a newcomer to take over the spotlight. They were asking "Who in the world is this fellow? Who does he think he is?"

John 5:30, "By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just (righteous), for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me."

JESUS = "My judgment is righteous and God ordained":

Boy...This would make the religious leaders of Israel so mad that they would kill before they would believe this "Nut"...this "Blasphemer"...this "Imposter" who came from some tiny village somewhere in Podunk Hollar. (He didn't go to Harvard, Yale, or Tarrant County Jr. College...Did he even get his GED). His identification does not come up to the standard of a peasant, much less the Son of God."

- **Jesus explained that He is qualified as a completely righteous judge, because His power is in submission to God the Father.**
- He repeated the themes: I can of Myself do nothing... I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

John 5:25-27, "Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

There are seven miracles (signs) recorded in the Gospel of John. Jesus turning water into wine; the healing of the officer's son, the paralytic at the healing pool, and man born blind; to walking on water, feeding of five thousand, and the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

John 20:30-31, "Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

John 21:24-25, "This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

Identification/Testimonies About Jesus

Jesus tells of testimony beyond His own regarding himself.

John 5:31-32, "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not considered true. ³² There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true."

In the 21st century language, Jesus is saying... "If I tell you that I am the Son of God, you will believe I am lying in that you are looking for the actions of the coming Messiah you have conjured up in your brain...and someone with prominence and credentials that would satisfy your understanding of who the Messiah is. Therefore, since you won't believe me as to who I am, I will give you proof as to who I am by giving you other witnesses and writings that will testify concerning my true Identification."

There are at least five valid testimonies as to who Jesus is.

This principle is established by Deuteronomy 19:15, which says by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

Jesus found it important to give them reason to believe beyond what He said about Himself.

1. John, the Baptist, was a witness to Jesus being the Messiah

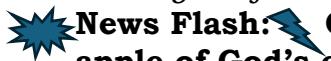
John 5:33-35, "You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. ³⁴ Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. ³⁵ John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to rejoice in his light."

Jesus noted that the religious leaders heard John the Baptist's preaching for themselves.

- **They needed to think of and believe what John said about Jesus.** They all had for a time...believed John's message was from God. Jesus is saying to them, "Continue to believe what John was saying about the Messiah."
- **John had light.** The function of light is to guide, and John pointed men on the way to repentance and to God.
- **In the nature of things, a lamp burns itself out; in giving light it consumes itself.** John was to decrease while Jesus increased. The true witness burns himself out for God." (Barclay)

- **To rejoice:** “To jump for joy, as we would express it. They were exceedingly rejoiced to hear that the Messiah was come, because they expected him to deliver them out of the hands of the Romans.

Note: Much of what we see happening on the campuses and around the world today are “people believing what they have conjured up in their mind as the truth.” They want to be seen and heard...and...they want you to believe like they do. The enemy is hard at work, and he is doing a good job at it.

News Flash:  **God will protect and never give up on Israel. They are the apple of God's eye.** Zechariah 2:8, “For this is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘After the Glorious One has sent me against the nations that have plundered you—for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye—

Romans 9-11 chapters (Very important for today's people).

2. *The Works that I am doing should let you know that I am the Messiah:*

John 5:36, “I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.

- The majority of the miraculous works of Jesus were simple acts of compassion and mercy, done for simple and needy people.
- The rabbis and the leaders of Israel looked for the Messiah to use miraculous power to bring military and political deliverance to Israel.
- Because Jesus’ miraculous works didn’t fit in with what they thought the Messiah would do, they didn’t receive this **witness** of Jesus’ works.

3. *The Father Himself testifies as to who I am.*

John 5:37-38, “And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,³⁸ nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent.”

- ✓ In practically every work and word of Jesus, God the Father testified to Jesus’ status as the Son of God.
- ✓ The Father testified of the Son in Old Testament prophecy and at the baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:22). “Behold, this is my Son, in whom I am well pleased.
- ✓ They can’t hear God the Father audibly, or see Him, but they have His word. They are guilty because they do not abide in the word that God gave them.

4. *The Scriptures testify about who I am.*

John 5:39-44, “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me,⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.⁴¹ “I do not accept glory from human beings,⁴² but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.⁴³ I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.⁴⁴ How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

In theory the religious leaders in Jesus' day loved and valued the **Scriptures** (here used in the sense of the Old Testament). They studied and memorized and thought upon them continually, correctly thinking **eternal life** was found in God's revelation. **HOWEVER...**

- ✓ They read the Scriptures not to search for God but to find arguments to support their own positions. They did not really love God; they loved their own ideas about him."
- ✓ The tragedy was that these people, for all their painstaking exploration of the sacred writings, had never found the clue which would lead them to their goal...eternal life.
- ✓ If their study of the **Scriptures** was accurate and sincere, they would see that they spoke of the Messiah, God the Son.

THE WORLD'S PROBLEM WITH JESUS... *But you are not willing to come to Me!! The religious leaders were not willing, even though they had all the testimony one could have wanted. They were concerned with man's honor, not the honor that comes from God.*

5. Moses testified about me...He wrote about me and you have placed your faith in Moses, who himself, died and it was recorded in the Scriptures you studied!

John 5:45-47, "Do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. ⁴⁶If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. ⁴⁷But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?"

- Jesus said of the Scriptures that they testify of Me (John 5:39). The words and writings of Moses fulfill this, prophetically speaking of the Messiah in many places.
The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear. (Deuteronomy 18:15)
- Jesus and His ministry were shown in the Tabernacle and its service. One place where the New Testament makes this connection is with the word propitiation in Romans 3:25, which speaks of the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant. (Covering of one's sin).
- No wonder Jesus could say "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the Book it is written of Me" (Psalm 40:7). He could teach a Bible study where beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself (Luke 24:27 "I AM HERE TO FULFILL ALL OF THE SCRIPTURES."

JESUS WAS IDENTIFIED WITH CLARITY AS THE SON OF GOD, MESSIAH...KING OF KINGS!