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- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
 - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
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 - 1. Opposition in Jerusalem (5:1-47)
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- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
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The Witnesses to the Son of God

Gospel of John, Part XIX

John 5:17-47, Part Three

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I. The Person and Work of Christ

II. Proofs for Jesus' Claims

A. Introduction (31-32)

B. The Witnesses (33-40)

1. The Human Witness of John (33-35)

2. The Divine Witness of the Father (36-40)

a. In Jesus' Works (36)

Jesus' works are called _____ in the Gospel of John. They are not ends in themselves but point to the identity of Jesus.

b. In Jesus' Life (37-38 cf. 14:9)

The Father empowered Jesus to live in such a way that whoever heard Jesus, heard the Father; whoever saw Jesus, saw the Father; whoever embraced Jesus' words, embraced the words of the Father.

- *His voice you have never heard,*
- *His form [character] you have never seen,*
- *and His word you do not have abiding in you,*
 - *for you do not believe the one whom He has sent.*

Everything that God has revealed about Himself is on display in Jesus of Nazareth. Hence to dishonor Jesus is to dishonor the Father.

c. In the Scriptures (39-40)

C. Reversing the Accusation (41-47)

Why are the Jews the guilty ones? Because their love is directed toward themselves and their customs and institutions, not to the Father. If they really knew the Father, if they really meditated on the significance of Jesus' works, if they truly listened to His voice and read the Scriptures with faith, then they would come to Jesus for eternal life. But they refuse to do so. Therefore, they are the guilty.

III. Application

A. Jesus' Claims

The foundation of the Christian claim to be the only true faith is found in Jesus' own words. He claims to be the Eternal Son of God in human flesh and insists that our eternal destiny is contingent on the way that we respond to Him. There is no eternal life apart from belief in Him. The one who truly knows God is the one who believes in the Son of God (38b). If you do not honor Jesus, then you do not love God.

B. Jesus' Proof (cf. 2 Pet 1:16-21; 1 Jn 1:1-3)

So these are Jesus' claims – and how does He substantiate them? He points us to human witnesses like that of John the Baptist but primarily He points us to His own works, to His life and teaching, and to the Sacred Scriptures. These things prove that His claims are true.

So what do we mean when we say that Jesus' claims are “the truth”? We mean that they correspond to reality. Christianity purports to be a map describing the nature and history of the world. It claims to correspond to reality. If it does not, if its claims are false, then it is useless. If Christ is not risen from the dead, then let us eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die (1 Cor 15:17-19).

Peter makes this precise point in his second letter. He writes:

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty... And so we have the prophetic word confirmed... (2 Pet 1:16, 19)

In other words, we have the sacred Scriptures of the OT fulfilled. In Jesus, we witness the fulfillment of all God's promises from the beginning of time – they prove that Jesus really is who He claimed. The Scriptures testify of Jesus.

C. Jesus' Summons

How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? (44) Note that Jesus insists that our basic calling as human beings is to seek the honor that comes from the only God. The one who truly loves God is willing to be despised by all others if necessary.

So note Jesus' summons: Jesus demands that you believe Him (38), that you come to Him for life (40), that you receive Him as God's representative (43), and that you believe His words (47). You are, in short, *to honor Him even as you honor the Father (23)*.

IV. Conclusion