

Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John
August 30th, 2020
Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

How (Not) to Read the Bible (John 5:31-47)

1. How not to read (vv. 31-47)

2. How to read

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?

For Further Thought and Discussion:

2. Jesus says that he does not receive human testimony (v. 34) or glory (v. 41). In other words, human testimony doesn't add anything to his status or identity. If that's true, why does Jesus bring forth "*witnesses*" in this passage? Why does he offer a defense of his ministry (see v. 34; see also Deuteronomy 19:15)?
3. What does Jesus mean when he says, "*If I alone bear testimony about myself, my testimony is not deemed true*"? Why does Jesus think it is impossible for him to bear

witness about himself apart from the witness of the Father (vv. 31-32; compare with vv. 19 and 30)?

4. Jesus says that the entire Old Testament bears witness to him (v. 39), including the Law of Moses (vv. 45-47)? Why would this statement have been so shocking to the religious leaders (see 5:16)?
5. Why were the religious leaders incapable of believing in Jesus, or seeing him in the Scriptures (see vv. 41-44)?

Application:

6. Jeff said that when we only focus on being right, and not on being righteous, we miss the point of the Bible and don't see our need for Jesus (see 2 Timothy 3:15). Jeff offered a few questions to ask to determine if you're reading the Bible wrongly. Which of these stood out to you? Why?
7. Jeff offered 5 questions that help us read the Bible rightly (i.e. as a book that points to Christ and faith in him).¹ Which of these was most helpful to you? Why?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?

¹ Adapted from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/greidanus-six-ways-to-see-christ-in-the-old-testament/>.