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# JOHN: THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

## *SEEKING GLORY*

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A message presented by Pastor Marc Minter  
to First Baptist Church of Diana, TX on June 25, 2017

### INTRODUCTION

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All those who are in Christ will be glorified with Him. Additionally, the Church (Christ's visible body in the world) is adorned with God's glory, shining brightly as she reflects the glory of Her King and Savior. And yet, the glory only God can give often appears humiliating from the worldly perspective. Individual Christians and local churches alike are frequently the object of ridicule and not reverence. What are we to make of this? Is God's word contradictory? How can inglorious Christians, which are the members of an inglorious Church, seek God's glory in the world?

### **JOHN 5:30-47 (ESV)**

[JESUS SAID,] 30 I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. 31 If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true. 32 There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true.

33 You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. 35 He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. 36 But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John.

For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. 37 And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me.

***His voice*** you have never heard, ***his form*** you have never seen, 38 and you do not have ***his word*** abiding in you, for ***you do not believe*** the one whom he has sent.

39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

41 I do not receive glory from people. 42 But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"

THE POINT I'M AIMING AT TODAY:

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**Everyone seeks Glory, but only the Glory God gives will last.**

MESSAGE OUTLINE:

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**(1) JESUS' SELF-CENTERED HEARERS**

**(2) JESUS' SELF-EFFACING CALL OF WITNESSES**

**(3) EVERYONE IS GLORY-HUNGRY, BUT NOT FOR GODLY GLORY**

**(4) APPLICATION: WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS?**

MESSAGE

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**(1) JESUS' SELF-CENTERED HEARERS**

*"...you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God" (v44).*

- **Their own words and deeds:**

- They told the healed invalid (for nearly 4 decades), "You are not supposed to be carrying your bed today!" (5:10).
- They persecuted Jesus because they judged Him guilty for having done this on the Sabbath (5:16).
- They sought to kill Jesus when He claimed to be sent by God the Father (5:18).

- **Jesus' Words of Indictment against them:**

- They were ***self-serving in their reception*** of John the Baptist's message.
  - ***"[John the Baptist] was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light"*** (v35).
    - They liked John's message of an Israel uprising... but not his message of repentance.
- They ***refuse to believe*** in Jesus, ***or receive*** Him as ***"from the Father."***
  - ***"you do not believe the one whom he [the Father] has sent"*** (v38).
  - ***"you do not receive me"*** (v43).
    - ***"believing"*** and ***"receiving"*** refer to their refusal to receive Jesus as Messiah... ***"His own did not receive Him"*** (Jn. 1:11).
- They perform ***religious duties*** to earn God's favor.
  - ***"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life"*** (v39).
    - Carson: ***"No independence is more arrogant and more delusive than religious independence... 'The world's resistance to God is based on its imagined security, which reaches its highest and most subversive form in religion... [One's religious affiliation and activity] makes them deaf to Jesus' word..."***<sup>1</sup>
- They ***refuse to come*** to Jesus.
  - ***"you refuse to come to me that you may have life"*** (v40)
    - They will not humble themselves and come to Jesus.
- They ***do not love God***.
  - ***"you do not have the love of God within you"*** (v42).
    - Regardless of what they say, they show no genuine love for God/Christ.

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<sup>1</sup> Carson, D. A. (1991). The Gospel according to John (p. 264). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

- They **receive/believe false messiahs**.
  - *“If another comes in his own name, you will receive him”* (v43).
    - Carson: “the chief judgment on those who deny that Jesus is the promised Messiah... is not so much that they have no Messiah, but that they follow false messiahs...”<sup>2</sup>
- They **seek glory from one another**, not from God.
  - *“you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God”* (v44).
    - They are still glory seekers, but not the glory that counts.
- They are and will be **accused by the very law they are trusting**.
  - *“There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope.”* (v45).
    - The bitter irony: They are claiming law-abiding as their righteousness, but the law will only condemn them.
- They **contradict the very thing they say they believe**.
  - *“if you believed Moses, you would believe me...”* (46).
    - As usual, a denial of consistent truth leads one to embrace inconsistency and lies.
- **Jesus’ Summary Indictment:**
  - *“His voice you have never heard...”* (v37)
    - Christ’s voice is one with the Father’s (Jn. 5:25, 28).
  - *“His form you have never seen...”* (v37)
    - Christ is the image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15), the one who makes the Father known to us (Jn. 1:18).
  - *“you do not have His word abiding in you...”* (v38)
    - Christ is the eternal word (Jn. 1:1), and the Word of God incarnate (Jn. 1:14).

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<sup>2</sup> Carson, D. A. (1991). The Gospel according to John (p. 265). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

Summary: These hearers are self-centered, and therefore, self-serving, self-defending, self-deluded, and self-condemning.

(Segue) *But Jesus is the exact opposite.*

## (2) JESUS' SELF-EFFACING CALL OF WITNESSES

*“Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved” (v34).*

- **First, Jesus is not saying His own testimony is untrue or isolated**

- *“If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true” (v31).*

Later, the Pharisees quote this very statement back to Jesus in an attempt to discredit His testimony, and Jesus says...

- *“Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true... even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me” (Jn. 8:13-16).*

- Therefore, the statement at hand (5:31) is an incredibly humble statement for the benefit of Jesus' hearers.
- It is also an appeal for Jesus' hearers to see that there are at least three others who bear witness to Him.

- **Second, Jesus calls 3 witnesses for the benefit of the hearer**

*“Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved” (v34).*

- As *first witness*, Jesus calls **God the Father**

- *“There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true” (v32).*
- Jesus is speaking about *“him who sent me...”* (v30); and Jesus said, *“I have come in my Father's name...”* (v43).
- *“The Father who sent me has Himself borne witness about me” (v37).*
  - The Father said of Jesus, *“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”* (Matt. 3:17).

- As **second witness**, Jesus calls **John the Baptist**
  - *“You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth”* (v33).
    - John the Baptist was a prophet from God (Jn. 1:6).
    - John’s message was, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”* (Matt. 3:2)
    - John pointed to Jesus as the *“Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”* (Jn. 1:29)
    - John explicitly proclaimed, *“I have seen and have borne witness that this [Jesus] is the Son of God”* (Jn. 1:34).
  
- As **third witness**, Jesus calls the **Scriptures**
  - *“You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me”* (v39).
    - Jesus is not pitting the Scriptures against Himself
      - Wrong view: *“You read the Bible, but you should have been seeking Me through some other means...”*
    - Jesus is saying that a right understanding of the Scriptures will always point to Him
      - Jesus met some of His disciples on the road to Emmaus, after His resurrection, and Luke tells us, *“beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he [Jesus] interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself”* (Lk. 24:27).
      - *“they...bear witness about me”* (v39).
      - Furthermore, Jesus has just said that *“hearing”* and *“believing”* His *“word”* is that which produces *“eternal life”* (Jn. 5:24).

**Summary: Jesus is the picture of self-effacing grace, calling His hearers to stop being the self-centered, glory-hungry, unbelievers they are.**

*(Segue) But they will not listen to the witnesses, because they are glory-hungry.*

### (3) EVERYONE IS GLORY-HUNGRY, BUT NOT FOR GODLY GLORY

*“43 I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. 44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?” (v43-44)*

- **Glory-Hungry People do seek glory**

- *“If another comes in his own name, you will receive him... **you receive glory from one another**” (v43-44).*

- ***Exchanging Glory*** = fundamental human brokenness

- ***“19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world**, in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse**. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and **exchanged the glory of the immortal God** for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things” (Romans 1:19–23).***

3 things from the passage:

- 1) ***Everyone seeks glory*** – it’s not an absence but an exchange
- 2) ***Idolatrous glory-seeking is foolish*** – it’s seeking transcendence, meaning, value, identity, etc. from incapable sources
- 3) ***You have no excuse*** – it’s arrogant, not ignorant

- ***“If another comes in his own name, you will receive him... you receive glory from one another”*** (v43-44).
  - ***False Teachers of Exchanged Glory*** = receiving another
    - Paul tells us, ***“understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty... 2 people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people... [Because some of them are] 7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth... these men... oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all...”*** (2 Timothy 3:1–9).
    - He continues a chapter later, ***“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth...”*** (2 Timothy 4:3–4).
    - 3 things from these verses:
      - People are bad – this description stings us all, and we are fools to deny the universality of sin
      - Bad People Show Themselves over time – ***“their folly will be plain to all...”*** (2 Tim. 3:9).
      - Bad People don’t want truth –
        - Some are ***“always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth...”*** (2 Tim. 3:7)
        - Some ***“oppose the truth... and [are] disqualified regarding the faith”*** (2 Tim. 3:8).
        - Many ***“will turn away from listening to the truth,”*** and they will gather around ***“teachers to suit their own passions”*** (2 Tim. 4:3–4).

- **Glory-Hungry People insulate themselves from true glory**
  - *“How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?” (v44).*
    - Oh, what a fearful warning we must hear in this!

**Summary: Jesus selflessly condescends to a bunch of glory-hungry and self-centered hearers, and offers them true glory...**

*(Segue) But the very thing upon which they have set their hope will condemn them in the end.*

*“There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope” (v45).*

#### **(4) APPLICATION: WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS? “SO, WHAT?”**

1. If the crowd who heard Jesus that day was so self-centered that they refused true glory, then...
  - We Should Acknowledge our own Tendency
  
2. If seeking glory from one another is exposed in our hearts today, then...
  - We Should Repent, and Trust in Christ
  
3. If we see this same selfish glory-seeking in others, then...
  - We Should Lovingly Follow Jesus’ Evangelistic Approach
    - *“you do not have [God’s] word abiding in you, for you do not believe...” (v37-38)*
    - *“you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” (v40)*
    - *“you do not have the love of God within you” (v42)*
    - *“How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?” (v44)*
    - **BUT,** *“I say these things so that you may be saved” (v34).*

**Major Point:** Everyone seeks Glory, but only the Glory God gives will last.

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

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*The Duty of searching the Scriptures* by Charles Whitefield

<http://www.biblebb.com/files/whitefield/GW037.htm>

*The Love of Human Praise as the Root of Unbelief* by John Piper

<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-love-of-human-praise-as-the-root-of-unbelief>

*The True Excellency of a Gospel Minister* by Jonathan Edwards

<http://www.biblebb.com/files/edwards/theminister.htm>