

Week 8 Discussion Questions

Text: John 5:30-47

Icebreaker: It's finally feeling like Fall! What Fall food are you most excited for this year?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. Recap from last week: What caused the Jews to want to kill Jesus?
He was claiming to be equal with God.
3. What does Jesus mean when he says, "If I alone bear witness about myself, my testimony is not true"?
Think about a court of law. The purpose of the court is to weigh the evidence in order to discover the truth. If the defendant has no evidence and only their own testimony as proof, we're less likely to believe them. In order to win their case, they want to bring enough evidence to outweigh what has been said against them.
4. Read Deuteronomy 17:6 and Deuteronomy 19:15. According to these verses, how many witnesses are required to prove something according to Jewish law?
Two or three witnesses.
5. How many witnesses does Jesus identify to make his case? Identify each witness and describe how they each prove that Jesus is who he says he is.
Four witnesses.
 - John the Baptist:
 - His Works:
 - The Scriptures:
 - Moses:
6. Jesus accuses the Jewish leaders of knowing the Scriptures, but missing the point of them. In what ways do we do the same thing? What are you seeking when you read the Bible?
We might view the Bible as just a moral handbook, a "devotional grab-bag," or a self-help book that tells us how to live or picks us up when we're feeling down. We might use it to proof-text our own actions and motives, defining what it says on our own terms and not reading it how it was meant to be read. You could pass every Bible Trivia quiz or memorize whole chapters, but if you are not seeking to know who Jesus is, you might miss Him.
7. What does it mean for Scripture to be authoritative and what is God's purpose in giving it to us?

According to Calvary's Statement of Belief: We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

8. Do you believe that Jesus is who he says he is? What difference does this make in your life?