

**One with the Father**  
**John 5:16-47**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** It is not always easy to believe that Jesus is the world's Messiah. John knows this and has given us at least three types of testimony: (i) The character of Jesus; (ii) The miracles of Jesus; (iii) The Scriptures.

**I) The character of Jesus: No one like him has ever existed.**

**A) Evidence: vs. 30**

- A loving and beloved apprentice to his Father.
- More than harmony: Deep submission
  - *Zeal for his Father's house (John 2)*
  - *My food is to do the will of him who sent me*

**B) People let us down**

Jesus never buckled  
No one has ever legitimately faulted him

**C) Perhaps one of the reasons we don't want to give Jesus his rightful place is that we don't want to face ourselves**

**II) The miracles of Jesus**

**A) Evidence: vs. 36**

Signs already seen:  
Others not recorded: *Jn. 3:2, 21:25*

**B) Aren't miracles the embellishments of a pre-scientific, credulous age?**

Not every day fare in the Biblical story: Clusters accompanying times of special revelation

**C) Why aren't there many today?**

Miracles don't necessarily produce what Jesus is seeking: Trust

The reaction to the healing of the paralytic: *vs. 18*

We already have more than enough miraculous evidence

We have a trust problem—not an evidence problem.

**III) The testimony of Scripture**

**A) Evidence: vs. 39, vs. 46**

## **B) Scripture's testimony to Jesus: The desperate need for "life"**

Israel's history

Temple sacrifices

Electric chair at the entrance to EPC worship every Sunday

Our own experience: We cannot fix our world or ourselves

God must.

## **C) Internal testimony**

**Conclusion:** Our tragic and absurd response to the evidence

### **Questions for Reflection this Week**

- 1) Do you ever doubt the Christian story? If so, why?
- 2) Some have said that the strongest evidence for Jesus' claims is Jesus' character. Do you agree? Why? Why not?
- 3) Respond to the following statement: "One of the reasons that we do not give Christ his rightful place is that we do not want to face ourselves. We do not want the light of this man's faithful love for his Father to expose and judge our half-heartedness."
- 4) What arguments do people raise against the notion of Jesus performing miracles? What are some responses to those arguments?
- 5) Respond to the following statement: "The Lord does not give us as many miracles today as he did during his earthly ministry because those miracles are all we need. Our real problem is not that we don't have enough miraculous evidence; it is that we don't trust him on the basis of the ample evidence we already have."
- 6) Jesus maintains in John 5:39 that it is entirely possible to know the Bible extremely well without discovering its true purpose—which is to give us life in the Messiah. Do you have difficulty finding the Messiah in the whole of Scripture? In which parts or types of OT literature do you have the greatest difficulty finding the Messiah? Discuss (or reflect upon) the ways in which the Old Testament Scriptures point to Christ.
- 7) For extra credit (he!) get a copy of Charlie Drew's book, The Ancient Love Song and discuss it with some friends—using the questions at the end of each chapter.