

Firestarter: John

Scripture: John 5:30-47

Before you read

1. Gather a pen, paper, and highlighters (for marking in your Bible).
2. Pray, asking God for wisdom and understanding of the word you are about to read.
3. Read the section more than one time.
 - First, read to understand.
 - Second, read to notice.
 - Third, read for questions. Record your questions as you read and see if you can answer them. Then Choose 3 questions from the observation section and find their answers.
 - Fourth, mark all the words that refer to **life** and **names**.

READ: John 5:31-47

OBSERVATION:

Who is John (vv. 33-35)?

Who or what provides an even greater testimony than John's (v. 36)?

Can studying and knowing God's Word give a person spiritual life? Why or why not? (See 5:39 note.)

How could so many of the religious leaders of Jesus' time study the Scriptures and still miss the truth about Him?

In what ways do people—including Christians—seek and accept praise from others yet miss honor from God?

Why must Jesus' followers not be motivated by other people's praise or approval? (See 5:44 note.)

What are some of the dangers of desiring or accepting praise from others?

How does Jesus confirm the truth and validity of the Old Testament in this passage? (See 5:47 note.)

Why is this important, and how should it affect your view of the entire Bible?

APPLICATION:

Who are you trying to impress?

Anyone?

Everyone?

Do you need approval from certain people to feel better about yourself and your accomplishments? Consider that what typically impresses people is not at all what impresses God. For this reason, those who seek honor and approval from people will almost certainly not receive honor and approval from God. His is the only approval that matters.

ACTION Step: Be conscious of anything you might do to impress others or get their attention throughout the day. Instead of being concerned with their perceptions and approval, handle each situation in a way that will please and honor God.

PRAY:

When you pray today, ask Jesus to help you resist the desire for praise and approval from others. Instead, pray that you will always live in a way that honors God and is honored by Him. Also, ask Jesus to help you understand the historical and spiritual connection between the Bible's Old and New Testaments.