

LOVE IN THE FACE OF REJECTION DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JOHN 5:31-47

- 1 **Jesus had an inner confidence of His Father's approval.** Discuss the following quote by Michael Reeves. "Before He ever created, before He ever ruled the world, before anything else, God was a Father loving his Son."

 Read Isaiah 42:1, 1 John 4:7-8, Matt 3:16-17, and John 17:24-26. What are the implications of the eternal relationship of love between the Father and the Son for you and me?

- 2 **In John 5:32, Jesus says that He doesn't need witness or testimony to validate His identity and authority.** If that is true, what does it say about Jesus that He takes the time to make his case to the religious leaders? Discuss the marvelous truth that Jesus loves both the rebellious and the religious.

 Read Deut. 19:15. Jesus offers testimony in keeping with the Mosaic standard for a court of law. What does this show us about what Jesus is trying to accomplish in offering these witnesses?

 Take time to praise God for ways that He has met you where you are.

- 3 **Jesus calls John the Baptist as His first witness to back up His claims of divinity.** According to John 5:35, John the Baptist "was a burning and a shining light." Does that statement contradict John 1:8? Why or Why not?

 Read Psalm 132:16-17. How was John's ministry prophesied? What was John's ministry?

 John the Baptist offers us a wonderful example of a fire kindled by God to shine light on Who Jesus is. How can you reflect his example? (See John 1:29-34 and 3:30.)

- 4 **How gripping are the words "for a while" in describing the shallowness of the Jews commitment to the message of the Messiah.** Write down some ways that people today get caught up in the excitement of a ministry without embracing the message behind it. Which of these ways do you struggle with?

- 5 **How do Jesus's miraculous works bear witness to His divinity?** Read John 3:2, 10:25, 14:11.

 Consider the miracle of new birth in a person's soul. What confidence does this offer in your life? See 1 John 5:9-10.

