

“How to Overcome Your Skepticism About Jesus”

John 8:13-27

John 8:13-27, The Pharisees replied, “You are making those claims about yourself! Such testimony is not valid.” ¹⁴ Jesus told them, “These claims are valid even though I make them about myself. For I know where I came from and where I am going, but you don’t know this about me.

[Here’s my top ten of claims so far]

John 1:43-50, “With me you will see amazing things.”

John 3:1-20, “I can save the world”

John 4:1-26, “I am the Messiah”

John 4:43-54, “I can heal and perform miracles without being there.”

John 5:16-30, “I’m God.”

John 5:31-47, “The Scriptures are about me.”

John 6:16-21, “I can fix what terrifies you.”

John 6:25-59, “I’m the real food you need to live.”

John 8:1-11, “I’m about second chances, not condemning people.”

John 8:12, “I am the Light of Life.”

And today’s claim, John 8:29, “... I always do what pleases God.”

Are you a skeptic ... like these Pharisees, or a believer? If you are a skeptic, but would like to believe, let me help you overcome your skepticism about Jesus.

A. Abandon human standards.

¹⁵ You judge me by human standards, but I do not judge anyone.

¹⁶ And if I did, my judgment would be correct in every respect because I am not alone. The Father who sent me is with me.

¹⁷ Your own law says that if two people agree about something, their witness is accepted as fact.

¹⁸ I am one witness, and my Father who sent me is the other.”

B. Observe the family resemblance.

¹⁹ “Where is your father?” they asked. Jesus answered, “Since you don’t know who I am, you don’t know who my Father is. If you knew me, you would also know my Father.”

C. Honestly address your sin problem.

²¹ Later Jesus said to them again, “I am going away. You will search for me but will die in your sin. You cannot come where I am going.”

²² The people asked, “Is he planning to commit suicide? What does he mean, ‘You cannot come where I am going’?”

D. Don’t expect a “worldly” Jesus.

²³ Jesus continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You belong to this world; I do not.

²⁴ That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I AM who I claim to be, you will die in your sins.”

E. Grapple with Jesus’ personal claims.

²⁵ “Who are you?” they demanded. Jesus replied, “The one I have always claimed to be.

²⁶ I have much to say about you and much to condemn, but I won’t. For I say only what I have heard from the one who sent me, and he is completely truthful.”

²⁷ But they still didn’t understand that he was talking about his Father.

F. Decide what to do with the Cross.

²⁸ So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I AM he. I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me.

²⁹ And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him.”

G. Believe Him.

³⁰ Then many who heard him say these things believed in him.

There came a point in my life when I could believe and did believe ... God enabled me to cross that threshold from death to life and trust Jesus as my Savior.

A closing prayer ... “Dear God, carry me across that gap between what I know to be true and what I desperately hope to be true. Today, as best I know how, I say ‘I believe’ in Jesus and take Him as my personal Savior. Amen.”