

**Title: Squidgy Things - John 5 30-47**

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**Read:**

<sup>30-33</sup>"I can't do a solitary thing on my own: I listen, then I decide. You can trust my decision because I'm not out to get my own way but only to carry out orders. If I were simply speaking on my own account, it would be an empty, self-serving witness. But an independent witness confirms me, the most reliable Witness of all. Furthermore, you all saw and heard John, and he gave expert and reliable testimony about me, didn't he? <sup>34-38</sup>"But my purpose is not to get your vote, and not to appeal to mere human testimony. I'm speaking to you this way so that you will be saved. John was a torch, blazing and bright, and you were glad enough to dance for an hour or so in his bright light. But the witness that really confirms me far exceeds John's witness. It's the work the Father gave me to complete. These very tasks, as I go about completing them, confirm that the Father, in fact, sent me. The Father who sent me, confirmed me. And you missed it. You never heard his voice, you never saw his appearance. There is nothing left in your memory of his Message because you do not take his Messenger seriously. <sup>39-40</sup>"You have your heads in your Bibles constantly because you think you'll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees. These Scriptures are all about me! And here I am, standing right before you, and you aren't willing to receive from me the life you say you want. <sup>41-44</sup>"I'm not interested in crowd approval. And do you know why? Because I know you and your crowds. I know that love, especially God's love, is not on your working agenda. I came with the authority of my Father, and you either dismiss me or avoid me. If another came, acting self-important, you would welcome him with open arms. How do you expect to get anywhere with God when you spend all your time jockeying for position with each other, ranking your rivals and ignoring God? <sup>45-47</sup>"But don't think I'm going to accuse you before my Father. Moses, in whom you put so much stock, is your accuser. If you believed, really believed, what Moses said, you would believe me. He wrote of me. If you won't take seriously what he wrote, how can I expect you to take seriously what I speak?"

**Think:**

It's incredible what people are happy to believe. In the not too distant past, people were happy to believe that the world was flat. In the very recent past, some people believed that the colour of your skin had an impact on your intelligence. Some of your mates are happy to accept that the world was created in some sought of cosmic explosion. Many of your mates believe that their ancestors were squidgy slime based creatures living in a swamp. And people were and are happy to believe these things, either with no evidence or with massive holes in the evidence or theories. And yet, today, just as in the days that Jesus walked upon this earth, people struggle to believe the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. Despite the fact that Jesus fulfilled the predictions of the prophets that came years before him. Despite the fact that Jesus life is chronicled, not only in the Bible, but with much other historical documentation. I guess, it just goes to prove one thing. It doesn't matter how much evidence exists or does not exist for Jesus being the son of God, it is all down to the individual. At the end of the day, whether we or your mates believe in Jesus, it doesn't impact whether he is the Son of God or not. Our belief in Jesus, doesn't make him anymore the Son of God that he already is. Other people's disbelief in Jesus, doesn't make him any less the Son of God. It's down to each and everyone of us, to ask God to reveal to us his existence and for us to make our own choice. Of course we could always choose to believe in squidgy things that live in a swamp.

**Pray:**

Lord thank you that you do not force us to believe. But thank you that you do give us the evidence to believe. Amen.

**Action:**

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