

THE THREEFOLD WITNESS

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John 5:30-47

1. Jesus' healing of a lame man on the Sabbath led to a lengthy confrontation with the Jewish religious leaders.
2. They leveled three charges against Him:
 - a. He healed on the Sabbath.
 - b. He commanded the man to break the Sabbath.
 - c. He claimed equality with God.
3. Jesus responded by declaring that:
 - a. Everything He did was something He saw the Father doing.
 - b. The Father does what He does through the Son. Col 1:15-20
He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16 For by Him all things were created**, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — **all things have been created through Him and for Him.** **17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.** **18 He is also head of the body, the church;** and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.** **19** For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, **20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself**, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.
NOTE: Ask yourself, does Jesus have first place in my life?
 - c. The Son knows all that the Father knows.
 - d. The Father and the Son are equal in power, authority, and honor.
4. Finally He declared that those who heard and responded to His voice in this life would live spiritually and experience a resurrection of life, while those who did not hear and respond to His voice in this life would hear His voice in the future calling them to a resurrection of judgment.
5. Beginning in verse 30 Jesus turned up the pressure even more by dealing with God's witness concerning the Son and the religious leader's rejection of that witness.
6. Jesus acknowledged in verse 31 that there was no way these men were obligated to believe Him based on His words alone.
NOTE: Jesus' statement meant that from a legal perspective His witness related to Himself was not admissible as legal evidence.
7. So Jesus presented three additional witnesses.

I. The witness of John the Baptist. 32-35

- A. Jesus authenticated the witness of John the Baptist.
- B. When asked John had testified that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah.
- C. John was God's instrument. John 1:6-8
There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.
NOTE: Like John we are to testify about the Light.
- D. The Jews responded to John the Baptist, but missed the implications of his message.

II. The witness of Jesus' works. 36

- A. As great as John's witness was it was still the witness of a man.
- B. An even greater witness was the works that the Father had given Jesus to accomplish, the very works that He did.
- C. Jesus stated that those works (signs) witnessed to the fact that God the Father had sent Him.
- D. The Apostle John later wrote, "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name." John 20:30-31

III. The witness of God through His Word. 37-47

- A. Those to whom Jesus was speaking were considered to be experts related to the Word of God.
- B. Yet, in spite of their knowledge of the content of Scripture, they completely missed the message contained therein.
 - 1. Jesus stated that God, through His Word, testified concerning Him.
 - 2. Their rejection of Jesus testified that they had never heard God's voice, nor was God's Word abiding in them. John 8:31-32
So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue (abide) in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
 - 3. Had they truly understood the message of the Old Testament they would have received and believed Jesus, the One God sent.
 - 4. They mistakenly believed that their understanding of the Scriptures would lead to eternal life, while on the basis of their understanding they rejected and crucified the only One who could actually give to them what they mistakenly thought they possessed.
- C. Jesus went on to state some additional truths.
 - 1. Unlike his accusers Jesus was not motivated by a desire to be glorified by men.
 - 2. He stated that God's love was not a present reality in the lives of those to whom He was speaking.
NOTE: They were more concerned about their Sabbath traditions than they were about the work of God—the man that was healed.
 - 3. They elevated men above God in that they listened to and glorified men while failing to listen to and glorify God.
 - 4. The words of Moses, in which they had set their hopes, would accuse them in the end, because Moses wrote about Jesus.
 - 5. Had they actually understood Moses they would have embraced and understood Jesus.
NOTE: Many people declare the Bible to be the Word of God yet it has not benefited them at all.

APPLICATION

- 1. One of the last things Jesus did before ascending back to Heaven was to help the Apostles understand the full implications of the Old Testament concerning Himself. Luke 24:44-49
Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His

name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 "You are witnesses of these things. 49
"And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in
the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

2. Like the Apostles, you and I are to be Spirit-filled witnesses related to all that they were to be witnesses to.
3. May God help us to add our witness to the threefold witness Jesus dealt with in this passage.