

Episode #1-24 - Two or Three Witnesses

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. The Lord's healing of the lame man at the pool of Bethesda started a battle with the religious leaders of Jerusalem because He had done it on the Sabbath day, challenging their authority to enforce their version of the Sabbath. The Lord justified His actions by testifying to the Jews who were His enemies His equality with God, but they rejected Him for it. Now, the Lord will call witnesses to the truthfulness of His claims.

III. John 5:28-30. The Lord's arguments to the leaders who were rejecting Him.

- A. Verse 28. Not just some, but all dead will someday hear His voice and live. Notice that this hour is coming, but is not already here.
- B. Verse 29. All come forth, not like previous resurrections. But this time, only some come forth to blessing, others to cursing. Greatest work = John 6:29.
- C. Verse 30. His judgment by His Father's will. We prefer our own will, not God's will as we read it in the Bible!

IV. John 5:31-47. The Lord calls two or three witnesses.

- A. Verse 31. Deuteronomy 19:15. False christs witness only of themselves.
- B. Verse 32. The Lord was not a solo witness to the truth about Himself.
- C. Verse 33. John is another. They commissioned people to John to find out if he was Christ, and he bore witness to the One coming after him (Jn. 1).
- D. Verse 34. The Lord didn't need his witness to know Himself, but His hearers.
- E. Verse 35. A burning and shining light = a famous man. They were willing to rejoice in John's light, but not Christ's.
- F. Verse 36. The second witness: His works. Given by the Father, and fit with the Old Testament predictions of Messiah.
- G. Verse 37. Calls a third witness, since they reject His. The Father Himself!
- H. Verse 38. How can He be a witness if you cannot hear or see Him? Through the Old Testament word of Messiah. They did not have His Word in them.
- I. Verse 39. Thought they had eonian life by the Scriptures, but they would not believe.
- J. Verse 40. Christ was the true source of eonian life, but they rejected Him. How sad!
- K. Verse 41. He is not looking for their approval, but is condemning them.
- L. Verse 42. He can see hearts: they have no love for God. Why they rejected Christ.
- M. Verse 43. Rejected Him BECAUSE He came from God! If He had not come from God, they would have accepted Him.
- N. Verse 44. The honor of men all-important to them, that of God unimportant.
- O. Verse 45. Now a prosecuting witness: not Christ, but Moses, their trust!
- P. Verse 46. Moses wrote about Christ, so they would be condemned by this.
- Q. Verse 47. The Lord's climax. If they refused to believe Moses, they would never believe Christ. Their ultimate condemnation. Let us not be like them!

V. Conclusion. The Lord called witnesses against the Jewish leaders: John the Identifier, His Own works, and the Father. They would not hear Him because they did not love God. His final, prosecuting witness was Moses. They would not believe him, so how could they believe Christ?

Question: Do we believe both?