

"You can be certain about me."

John 5:31-47

"Who says so?" When I was younger that was one of my favorite things to say ... "yeah, who says so?" One of the rites of passage of adolescence and our 20's is challenging authority and deciding for ourselves what is true and what is false. Jesus WANTS you to honestly assess what he says and come to a decision. So, in today's Bible passage Jesus lists four witnesses that testify to the validity of His claims. Let's look at these four witnesses.

A. Witness One: John the Baptist.

John 5:31-47 (NLT)

³¹ "If I were to testify on my own behalf, my testimony would not be valid.

³² But someone else is also testifying about me, and I assure you that everything he says about me is true.

³³ In fact, you sent investigators to listen to John the Baptist, and his testimony about me was true.

³⁴ Of course, I have no need of human witnesses, but I say these things so you might be saved.

³⁵ John was like a burning and shining lamp, and you were excited for a while about his message.

-- Jesus doesn't expect you to believe Him "just because I said so."

-- Jesus isn't so grandiose in His self-opinion that He expects you to have a blind faith in Him. A strong faith? Sure. Enduring faith? Yes. Informed faith? Yup. Blind/unquestioning faith? Nope. So He enlists four witnesses that would help people believe in Him.

-- John the Baptist was a respected, unorthodox, prophet that testified that Jesus was the son of God: John 1:6-9, God sent a man, John the Baptist, ⁷ to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. ⁸ John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. ⁹ The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

-- v. 34, Jesus doesn't NEED JTB's testimony, but we do. Jesus wants us to be saved, so He will do whatever it takes to save us, including dying on the Cross for us!

B. Witness Two: Teaching and miracles.

³⁶ But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The

Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me.

³⁷ And the Father who sent me has testified about me himself. You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face,

³⁸ and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one he sent to you.

So far in John 1-5 we seen six miracles with Jesus so far:

- At His Baptism the Holy Spirit descended as a dove on Jesus.
- Saw Nathaniel under a fig tree without being there.
- Turn water into wine.
- Knew the family history of a woman he had never met.
- Heals a government official's son.
- Heals a lame man.

So far in John 1-5 we've some incredible teaching:

- Jesus said He was the door between heaven and earth.
- Jesus said the temple was "his father's house."
- Jesus said He could rebuild the temple in 3 days.
- Jesus told Nicodemus that believing in Him would bring eternal life.
- Jesus told the woman at the well that He was "living water."
- Jesus told the woman at the well that He was the Messiah.
- Jesus told the Pharisees He was the Son of God.
- Jesus said the dead would rise again at the sound of His voice.

Jesus inspired us to believe Him by what He SAID.

Jesus confirms our belief in Him by what He DID.

C. Witness Three: The Scriptures.

³⁹ "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!

⁴⁰ Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

...

⁴⁵ "Yet it isn't I who will accuse you before the Father. Moses will accuse you! Yes, Moses, in whom you put your hopes.

⁴⁶ If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me.

⁴⁷ But since you don't believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

One example:

Isaiah 53:5-6 (NIV)

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The religious people of Jesus' day were looking for political rescue ... for a Messiah that would restore the power and glory of the earthly kingdom. But, the Messiah God had in mind was the one foretold in Isaiah 53, one who would provide spiritual rescue.

1 person fulfilling 8 prophecies: 1 chance in 1 trillion.

Virgin Born ... in Bethlehem ... spend time in Egypt ... speaking in parables ... called a King ... crucified with criminals ... buried with the rich ... raised from the dead.

1 person fulfilling 48 prophecies: 1 chance in 10¹⁵⁷.

1 person fulfilling 300+ prophecies: Only Jesus!

D. Witness Four: Changed Life.

⁴¹ "Your approval means nothing to me,

⁴² because I know you don't have God's love within you.

⁴³ For I have come to you in my Father's name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them.

⁴⁴ No wonder you can't believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God.

-- Don't depend on personal opinion.

-- Don't depend on "group-think."

-- Don't depend on pedigree or reputation.

-- Instead, ask yourself ... "Is God's love changing me?"

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, we appreciate that You have supplied multiple witnesses to the claims of Christ because some of us need an extra boost of evidence to make faithful decisions. We ask for Your love to grow within each of us so that we can become a part of that great number of witnesses for You! In Jesus' name, amen."