

John 20:

³⁰ And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through his name.

- In the beginning of chapter 5 Jesus healed a lame man at the pool of Bethesda, but because he did it on the Sabbath day and broke the traditions of the religious leaders, the anger of the religious leaders was aroused.
- Jesus explained to the religious leaders that his Father works on the Sabbath day and so did he. This riled up the religious leaders even more because Jesus was claiming that God was his father making himself equal with God.
- Tonight we are going to read about the fourfold witness that Jesus gave to validate His claims.

John 5:

³¹ “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true (acceptable).

- In the Old Testament you need two or more witnesses to validate a claim of guilt or innocence. Your own witness was not enough.

Deuteronomy 19:

¹⁵ One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

- But Jesus continued to list four witnesses that are acceptable.
- Witness #1: John the Baptist

John 5:

³¹ “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. ³² There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. ³³ You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴ Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. ³⁵ He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.

- What witness did John the Baptist give of Jesus?

Backing up to John 1:

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." ³² And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

- Did the religious rulers fully understand the gravity of John's witness?
- Can you think of a scripture where the rulers discuss the repercussions of accepting or denying John's witness?

Matthew 11:

²⁷ Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He (Jesus) was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to Him. ²⁸ And they said to Him, “By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?” ²⁹ But Jesus answered and said to them, “I also will ask you one question; then answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things: ³⁰ The baptism of John—was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me.” ³¹ And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ³² But if we say, ‘From men’” —they feared the people, for all counted John to have been a prophet indeed. ³³ So they answered and said to Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus answered and said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

- Witness #2: The works that Jesus performed

John 5:

³⁶ But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

Backing up to John 3:

¹ There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

- Witness #3: The Father's testimony

John 5:

³⁷ And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. ³⁸ But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

Matthew 3:

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- Witness #4: The Old Testament Scriptures

John 5:

³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

- The religious leaders knew the Old Testament scriptures well.
- They did not however fully understand

Matthew 5:

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.

. . .

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

- The religious leaders also believed that you could be saved by keeping the law that they had extended with even more rules

Romans 8:

¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Back to tonight's text John 5:

³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

Luke 24 (the road to Emmaus):

²⁵ Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

. . .

Luke 24:

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” (the 3 divisions of the Hebrew Bible)

- Let's look at 16 of the 300 prophetic Scriptures which Jesus fulfilled and testify that Jesus is the true Messiah, the Son of God

- Starting with the prophecies surrounding the birth of the Messiah

Isaiah 7:

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (*God-With-Us*).

Micah 5:

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting.”

Matthew 2:

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” ¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.” (Hosea 11: 1)

Hosea 11: 1

“When Israel *was* a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.”

Matthew 2 (continued):

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.” (Jeremiah 31:15)

- Moving forward on the time line to prophetic scriptures surrounding the ministry of the Messiah

Isaiah 61:

¹ “The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me,
Because the LORD has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound;
² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,

Daniel 9:

²⁴ “Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.

²⁵ “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; (483 years)

- March 445 BC King Artaxerxes gave that command and 483 years later Jesus rode into Jerusalem upon a donkey

Zechariah 9:

⁹ “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your King is coming to you;
He is just and having salvation,
Lowly and riding on a donkey,
A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Isaiah 53:

¹ Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire Him.

³ He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

- And now looking at the prophetic scriptures surrounding the suffering and death of the Messiah

Psalm 118:

²² The stone *which* the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³ This was the LORD's doing; It *is* marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This *is* the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Zechariah 11:

¹² Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give *me* my wages; and if not, refrain.” So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

¹³ And the LORD said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty *pieces* of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.

Isaiah 50:

⁶ I gave My back to those who struck *Me*, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

Isaiah 53:

⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed (Amen and Amen).

Psalm 22:

¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; ¹⁷ I can count all My bones. They look *and* stare at Me. ¹⁸ They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.

Isaiah 53:

⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor *was any* deceit in His mouth

. . .

¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Amos 8:

⁹ “And it shall come to pass in that day,” says the Lord GOD, “That I will make the sun go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in broad daylight;

¹⁰ I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist, and baldness on every head; I will make it like mourning for an only son, and its end like a bitter day.

What is the probability of Jesus fulfilling 16 prophecies (using silver dollars for the illustration)



Back to tonight's text - John 5:

³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

- God did not want man confused or deceived as to who the Messiah would be when he came

⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

- Eternal life does not come from knowing the Bible, it comes from receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord
- The Scriptures will lead you Jesus, but if you don't come to Him as your Lord, you don't have life

Matthew 7:

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

John 5:

⁴¹ “I do not receive honor from men. ⁴² But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. ⁴³ I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive (Anti-Christ). ⁴⁴ How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

- By rejecting Jesus who lived to do the will of the Father, they rejected the Father who sent Him and the Father’s will
- The problem seems to stem from seeking the honor of man rather than of God
- They sought the honor of their own religious clicks

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- The problem seems to stem from seeking the honor of man rather than of God

Mark 12:

³⁸ Then He said to them in His teaching, “Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces,³⁹ the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts,⁴⁰ who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.”

- They sought the honor of their own man made religious institutions
- Where are you seeking honor from today?

