

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

**15) In The Mouth of Two or
Three Witness**

'If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true'
(John 5:31-32)

Jesus had made huge claims about Himself. In response to those who demanded proof of the veracity of His claims Jesus cites 3 witnesses

'One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established'
(Deut.19:15)

'You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light'

(John 5:33-35)

The first witness was John the Baptist who repeatedly bore witness to Him

Jesus mentioned John's testimony because it was true and if they believed it, they would be saved

If anyone accepted John's preaching, they could not reject Jesus

- **The Jews regarded their teachers as 'lamps'**
- **It is the nature of a lamp to burn itself out; in giving light it consumes itself. John did this**
- **A lamp not only gives light it also attracts moths, like the crowds that gathered to hear him. Even Herod heard Him for a while, Mk 6:20**
- **The crowds were only willing to receive John 'for a time'. Like the seed on rocky ground they had no root. It is not by beginning but continuing in Christ's Word that we prove to be His disciples**
- **The testimony of Jesus to John is a beautiful example that if we confess Christ before men, so He will confess us before God**

'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' (John 5:36)

**The second witness was His works (John 3:2)
These are important because Jesus mentioned them on other occasions**

'The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me' (John 10:35)

'Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves' (John 14:11)

These works were supernatural, but they were also works of mercy and kindness

They resulted in a confession of belief in Him:

- ✓ *'This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him' (John 2:11)*
- ✓ *'So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household' (John 4:53)*
- ✓ *'Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world"' (John 6:14)*
- ✓ *'Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshipped Him' (John 9:38)*
- ✓ *'Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him' (John 11:45)*

***'And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe'* (John 5:37-38)**

The third witness was that of the Father

This is not the witness of the audible voice but the witness of the Scriptures, i.e. the prophets

But they did not receive Jesus because they did not have God's Word abiding in them. Thus...

***'You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life'* (John 5:39-40)**

- ✓ **Regarding the Scriptures A W Pink said, 'Beyond them there is no appeal; above them no higher authority; after them no further witness'**
- ✓ **The Jewish scholars gave themselves to study the Scriptures, but they missed the main message**
- ✓ **'Search,' merely 'read'. The Greek word is one that was used in connection with hunting. When a hunter discovered the tracks of an animal, he followed them until he found his prey**
- ✓ **The Scriptures point to Jesus but the Jews failed to recognize where the trail was leading**
- ✓ **There is no life in the Scriptures if we fail to see Him there**

'I do not receive honor from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. 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. How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?'
(John 5:41-44)

Why, regardless of these three powerful witnesses, did they fail to come to Jesus? Because they sought the honour that comes from man, not God. This honour is praise for their self-righteous works as opposed to repentance and faith in Jesus

But He knows them (2:24) and therefore is not surprised at their rejection of Him

They would reject Him, in spite of all the testimony, yet accept another based on that one's self-acclamation. Jesus needs no such affirmation from men. He only seeks the will of the Father

The Jews often listened to false messiahs, but rejected Him. This will culminate in the Antichrist

'The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness' (2 Thes.2:9-12)

He will come in his own name, i.e. not representing God but claiming to be God...

'...who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God'

(2 Thes.2:4)

Why will they accept him? For the same reason they rejected Jesus. Because they wanted a deliverer from their enemies; but Jesus is a Saviour from self and sin

This is why they only rejoiced in John *'for a while'*

'Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?'

(John 5:45-47)

If there is one thing those Jews thought they believed, it was Moses and his writings (Torah)

Moses bore witness to Jesus in all the types and shadows in the Torah, e.g. the Fall, Flood, tabernacle, priesthood, sacrifices, the serpent in the wilderness, etc.'

'But he said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead"'

(Luke 16:31)

'And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself'

(Luke 24:27)

'If you don't believe Moses and all he wrote, how can you believe in Me?'

Note the charges which He brings against them:

'You don't have His word abiding in you' (v.38)

'You will not come to me' (v.40)

'You don't have the love of God in you' (v.42)

'You don't receive Me' (v.43)

'You don't seek the honor that comes from God only' (v.44)

'You don't believe Me' (v.47)

But notice all stem from:

'You don't have His word abiding in you'