

## The Four Witnesses (John 5:33-47 NASB) [Scripture Text]

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33. You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth.
34. But the testimony which I receive is not from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved.
35. He was the lamp that was burning and was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.
36. But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish-the very works that I do-testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.
37. And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form.
38. You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent.
39. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;
40. and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.
41. I do not receive glory from men;
42. but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.
43. I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him.
44. How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?
45. Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope.
46. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.
47. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

I. Review

- a. Resurrection of the dead (Jairus' daughter, the widows son, Lazarus) who died again
- b. Resurrection of the dead after Jesus' resurrection
  - i. And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:50-54 NASB)
  - ii. Only place that this is mentioned in scripture (Matt. 27:52-53)
    1. The other Apostles didn't mention this in their writings
    2. it would seem that if these people continued to walk the face of the earth that they would have caused quite a stir (more so than Jairus' daughter, the widows son and Lazarus who got the attention of many)
    3. It is believed that they were resurrected and then taken to Glory shortly after, however scripture does not clearly state this
    4. **Jesus was the first to receive a Glorified body:** "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive." (I Corinthians 15:20-22)
    5. **There is an order to resurrection:** "But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power." (1 Corinthians 15:23-24 NASB)
    6. **This is consistent with Colossians 1:15-20 that states:** "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 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. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 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. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 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." (Colossians 1:15-20 NASB)
    7. Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures. (James 1:17-18 NASB)
  - iii. For more information on the time surrounding the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus:
    1. Ephesians 4:8-10
    2. I Peter 3:18-20
    3. Colossians 2:14-15
- c. The Resurrection of Jesus
- d. The Two Resurrections
  - i. The righteous dead unto internal life (faith in Jesus).
  - ii. The wicked dead unto everlasting judgement (unbelief).

# The Witness of John, Works, The Father and Scripture (John 5:33-47 NASB) [outline/handout]

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## I. Introduction (vv.31-32) [read]

a. "If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not true." (v.31)

i. Under the law a person cannot be a witness for him/herself

ii. "On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness."  
**(Deuteronomy 17:16 NASB)**

iii. "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; **on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.** If a **malicious witness** rises up against a man to accuse him of wrongdoing, then both the men who have the dispute shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who will be in office in those days. The judges shall investigate thoroughly, and **if the witness is a false witness and he has accused his brother falsely, then you shall do to him just as he had intended to do to his brother.** Thus you shall **purge the evil from among you. The rest will hear and be afraid, and will never again do such an evil thing among you.** Thus you shall not show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.  
**(Deuteronomy 19:15-21 NASB)**

1. How many witnesses are necessary to determine guilt in a court of law according to Jewish law?

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2. What is to happen to false witnesses in a court of law?

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3. Why is this judgement to be handed down to a false witness?

\_\_\_\_\_ and

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b. Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. **(John 10:25 NASB)**

c. "There is another who testifies of Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true." (v.32)

i. God testifies of Jesus, but under "the law" (the law of Moses, the law of the Jews) this was not considered enough according to the Jewish leaders of His day.

- ii. Jesus accommodates them by offering them not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, but four (4) witnesses, even though being God Himself (as a witness) He does not have to justify His claims

II. Witness of John the Baptist (vv.33-35) [read]

- a. Read:
  - i. John the Forerunner of Christ: **John 1:6-8**
  - ii. John’s witness to the priests and Levites: **John 1:19-28**
  - iii. John’s witness at Christ’s baptism: **John 1:29-34**
  - iv. John’s witness concerning Christ: **John 3:22-36**
- b. “Witness” and “Testify” are *courtroom terms* found in the book of John
  - i. Jesus on trial *then* (Witnesses: Jesus, Nicodemus, Samaritan woman, The Samaritans, the works of Jesus, John the Baptist, The Father, The Scriptures, the crowd (people), the religious leaders, The Holy Spirit) *[discussion]*  
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  - ii. Jesus on trial *now* (what does the world say about Jesus today?)  
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  - iii. Everyone has to make a decision about what to do with \_\_\_\_\_.

III. Witness of Works (v.36) [read]

- a. In the book of John there are eight signs (“works”) that Jesus performed, demonstrating who He was *then* and who He is *now*.
- b. The Eight Signs of Jesus

Sign	Passage of Scripture	Implication
Turns water into wine	John 2:1-12	Jesus is the source of life
Heals a royal official’s son	John 4:46-54	Jesus is master over distance
Heals a lame man at the pool of Bethesda	John 5:1-17	Jesus is master over time
Feeds 5,000 (men)	John 6:1-14	Jesus is the bread of life
Walks on water, stills a storm	John 6:15-21	Jesus is master over nature
Heals a man blind from birth	John 9:1-41	Jesus is light of the world
Raises Lazarus from the dead	John 11:17-45	Jesus has power over death
Causes abundant catch of fish	John 21:6	Jesus is master over the animal world
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IV. Witness of the Father (vv.37-38) [read]

- a. How did God the Father witness to the identity of Jesus Christ? What did He (God) say or do? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and

behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." (**Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:21-22 NASB**)

- c. But Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. Many followed Him, and He healed them all, and warned them not to tell who He was. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: " behold , my servant whom I have chosen ; my beloved in whom my soul is well - pleased ; I will put my spirit upon Him , and he shall proclaim justice to the gentiles . " he will not quarrel , nor cry out ; nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets . "A battered reed he will not break off , and a smoldering wick he will not put out , until he leads justice to victory . " and in his name the gentiles will hope . " (**Matthew 12:15-21 NASB**)
- d. Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "**This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!**" When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. And Jesus came to them and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid." And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone. (**Matthew 17:1-8 NASB**)
- e. For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "**This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased**"- and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. (**2 Peter 1:16-18 NASB**)
- f. What was the ultimate sign that God the Father gave to all mankind to let us know who Jesus is?

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- g. What does this sign mean in relationship to what Jesus did, what He said, what He accomplished and what the future holds for those who put their trust in Him?

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V. Witness of the Scripture (vv.39-47)

- a. "You search the scriptures..." (v.39) [read]
  - i. But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful...always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (**2 Timothy 3:1-2a,7 NASB**)
  - ii. Theirs (the religious leaders) was a false religion of works that leads to judgement, instead of a the true religion of faith in Christ that leads to salvation, sanctification and love for God and man (**Ephesians 2:8-10, James 1:27**)
- b. "and you are unwilling..." (v.40) [read]

- i. Unbelief was the sin that so easily beset them (**Hebrews 12:1**)
  - ii. Their unbelief was rebellion against God and rebellion is as bad as witchcraft (divination) in the sight of God (**I Samuel 15:22-23**)
  - iii. This perpetual unbelief lead to blasphemy against God the Holy Spirit the unpardonable sin (**Matthew 12:31; Luke 12:10**)
- c. "I do not receive glory from men..." (vv.41-44) [read]
- i. What would have happened if Jesus had agreed to be the kind of Messiah that the Jews were looking for? What where they looking for?  
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  - ii. What happened when Jesus came as the kind of Messiah that God the Father wanted Him to be?  
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- d. "Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father..." (vv.45-47)
- i. The very one (\_\_\_\_\_) that they had put their hope in was the very one that would eventually accuse them
  - ii. Their hope for salvation was in the scriptures (the books of Moses; [Pentateuch: the first five books of the Hebrew Bible]), which they searched (v.39), but they failed to recognize the One (\_\_\_\_\_) in whom Moses wrote about.
  - iii. Moses wrote about Jesus (The Messiah) in the Pentateuch [the first five books of the Hebrew Bible] (**Deut. 18:15-19**); (**cf. John 1:21, 4:19, 6:14, 7:40,52**)

VI. Conclusion:

- a. What was the purpose of John's presentation of the four witnesses?  
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- b. John's primary purpose in recording the miracles and signs of Jesus what to what end? (John 20:30-31)  
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