

“The Four Great Witnesses of the Ministry of Jesus Christ”
John 5:31-47

1. The first witness is John the Baptist (Verses 33-35).

(Matthew 3:1-2; John 1:19-27; 10:40-42)

2. The second witness is Jesus’ own works (Verse 36).

- A. Jesus’ plead to believe Him based upon His works.
- B. Nicodemus’ confession.
- C. There is the general amazement from those who saw Him.
- D. Jesus’ answer to John the Baptist’s inquiry.

(Matthew 11:3-5; Mark 1:27-28; John 3:2; 7:31; 10:25, 37-38; 11:47; 14:11)

3. The third witness is God the Father (Verses 32, 37-38).

- A. God’s physical voice
 - At Jesus’ baptism
 - At Jesus’ Transfiguration
- B. God’s written Word

(Exodus 33:20; Matthew 3:17; 17:1-13; John 1:18; 1 Timothy 6:16; 2 Peter 1:16-18; 1 John 4:12)

4. The fourth witness is the Scriptures (Verses 39-47).

- 1. Jesus told the Jews that they were searching the Scriptures but they were lost.
You cannot properly understand the Scriptures apart from the work of God.
- 2. Jesus does not receive His glory from men; He receives His glory from God.
- 3. The Jews cared more about what their fellow human beings said than what God said.
- 4. The Jews were putting their hope in Moses, but Moses was going to be their accuser.

(Isaiah 29:13)

Scripture References and Notes

Deuteronomy 19:15

“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.

John 1:19-27

¹⁹ This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² Then they said to him, “Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.” ²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, and said to him, “Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them saying, “I baptize in water, *but* among you stands One whom you do not know. ²⁷ *It is* He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

John 10:40-42

⁴⁰ And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was first baptizing, and He was staying there. ⁴¹ Many came to Him and were saying, “While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true.” ⁴² Many believed in Him there.

Matthew 3:1-2

Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

John 10:37-38

³⁷ If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸ but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.”

John 14:11

Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

John 3:2

...this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

Mark 1:27-28

²⁷ They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” ²⁸ Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding district of Galilee.

John 7:31

But many of the crowd believed in Him; and they were saying, “When the Christ comes, He will not perform more signs than those which this man has, will He?”

Matthew 11:3-5

³ ...and said to Him, “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?” ⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ *the* BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, and *the* POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, “What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs.

John 10:25

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.

Matthew 3:17

...and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

2 Peter 1:16-18

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷For 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"— ¹⁸and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

Exodus 33:20

But He said, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!"

John 1:18

No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

1 Timothy 6:16

who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

1 John 4:12

No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

Isaiah 29:13

Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me, and their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*...

"Over the centuries there have been many false messiahs (as many as sixty-four according to some Jewish historians)."

– John MacArthur, *John 1-11*, 214.