

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL**

**11 July 2021**

**Text: John 5:31-47**

**Subject: Evangelism**

**Focus: Appealing to Witnesses**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. When people find it hard to believe

a) Questions

b) Doubts

c) Resistance

2. The Example of the Lord Jesus

a) He knows how the human heart and mind work

b) It helps when we bring in “witnesses”

**THE IDEA OF HAVING “WITNESSES”**

1. When a person testifies of himself

“If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true”          John 5:31

a) This is called a conditional sentence

b) It does not mean that the witness of the Lord is not true

c) It means that what He says, people will not accept His personal testimony

2. The 1<sup>st</sup> Witness

John 5:32-35

a) John the Baptist as a witness for the Lord Jesus

b) He bore witness for the Lord

i) That the Lord Jesus is mightier          John 1:27

ii) That He is the Lamb of God          John 1:29

c) His witness is true          John 5:32

d) The Lord Jesus does not really need a witness          John 5:34a

- e) He is doing this to help people to believe and be saved      John 5:34
- f) John and his ministry
  - i) The chief priests sent their men to check      John 1:19-28
  - ii) John bore witness of the truth      John 5:33
  - iii) “He was the burning and shining lamp”      John 5:35a
  - iv) “You were willing for a time to rejoice in his light”      John 5:35b

### 3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Witness John 5:36

- a) The works of the Lord Jesus bear witness      John 5:36a
- b) Description of His works
  - i) The Father sent the Lord Jesus to do these works      John 5:36b
  - ii) His works bear witness of Him      John 5:36c
  - iii) The Father had indeed sent Him      John 5:36d
- c) Important texts
  - i) Matthew 11:1-6
  - ii) Matthew 15:29-31

### 4. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Witness John 5:37

- a) God the Father as Witness      John 5:37a
- b) He has testified of the Lord Jesus      John 5:37b
  - i) At His Baptism      Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-22
  - ii) In His works      John 5:36
- c) Problem
  - i) The Jews had never heard God’s voice      John 5:37c
  - ii) They have not seen His form      John 5:37d

## 5. The 4<sup>th</sup> Witness

John 5:38-39

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| a) The Word as a witness                     | John 5:39  |
| b) The Scriptures testify of the Lord Jesus  | John 3:39b |
| c) But the word did not abide in the scribes | John 3:38a |
| d) They do not believe in the Lord Jesus     | John 3:38b |

### **THE PROBLEM OF NOT BELIEVING FURTHER DISCUSSED**

**John 5:40-47**

#### 1. Unwillingness to come to the Lord Jesus

“But you are not willing to come to Me  
that you may have life”

John 5:40

#### 2. The problem of no love for God

“But I know you, that you do not have the  
love of God in you”

John 5:42

#### 3. The problem of worldliness: “Honour”

##### a) The problem of “honour”

“I do not receive honour from men”

John 5:41

b) “I have come in My Father’s name,  
and you do not receive Me”

John 5:43a

c) “If another comes in his own name,  
him you will receive”

John 4:43b

##### d) Receiving honour from one another

“How can you believe, who receive honour  
from one another, and do not seek the  
honour that comes from the only God?”

John 5:44

## **ACCUSATION**

### 1. Accusation of the Lord Jesus

The scribes/ Pharisees think that the Lord Jesus was accusing them

“Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father” John 5:45a

### 2. Accusation from Moses

“There is one who accuses you-  
Moses in whom you trust” John 5:45b

### 3. No real belief in Moses

a) There was a common profession of faith in Moses

b) In reality, they do not believe in His writings

“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me;  
For he wrote about Me” John 5:46

“But if you do not believe his writings,  
how will you believe My words?” John 5:47

## **THE PROBLEM OF UNBELIEF**

1. It runs deep

2. One has to be candid and humble to resolve this problem

3. The hindrance to faith in the Lord Jesus lies within ourselves

## **THE LORD STANDS FAITHFUL**

1. He will receive anyone who turns to Him in faith

2. He will grant salvation to the genuine believer