

Why Should You Believe? - John 5:30-47 From the Series, Believe:879 By Pastor Skip Heitzig

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The theme of John's gospel is "believe." The whole reason he wrote this book is so that people who read it will believe in Jesus (see John 20:31). But why should they believe? And even more applicable, why should we believe? After all, the events of the New Testament are over 2,000 years removed from us today. Jesus' confrontation with the religious leaders in John 5 tells us why we should believe. Like a skilled lawyer, Jesus calls upon four witnesses to testify to His claims and these four give the reasons for our believing in Jesus Christ.

OUTLINE

- I. Because of What Others Have Declared (vv. 30-35)
- II. Because of What Jesus Has Done (v. 36)
- III. Because of What God Has Decreed (vv. 37-38)
- IV. Because of What Scripture Discloses (vv. 39-47)

HE IS AMONG US

Making it More than a Sermon:

- 1. Think about the word "testimony." It means "A written or spoken statement usually given in a court of law." What is your own personal testimony about the Jesus of history?
- 2. Why were all of these four testimonies rejected by Jesus' enemies? What does this tell you about how humans interact with the truth?
- 3. How does the Bible help confirm your own testimony about Jesus? How much time do you personally spend reading, studying and praying over the Scriptures each week?

DETAILED NOTES

Topic: belief Keywords: faith, believe, witness, testimony, prophecy

Jesus opponents said they believed in God, but they didn't believe, love and trust in Jesus. Instead they called him a blasphemer. Eight times in this text the word "witness" (marturo) appears, and four more times the word "testify," (same Greek word). Jesus calls witnesses into the courtroom of truth to explain why we should believe. Not just because He said so. Jewish, Greek and Roman law require two witnesses; Jesus provides four.

- I. Because of What Others Have Declared (vv. 30-35)
 - A. John the Baptist
 - 1. Eyewitness testimony
 - A. Behold the Lamb of God! John 1:29; John 1:36
 - B. He is greater than I and existed before me. John 1:30
 - 2. Cousins
 - B. Other first-hand witnesses
 - 1. Peter 2 Peter 1:16
 - 2. John 1 John 1:1-2
 - C. Historic encounters (personal first-hand accounts of His sermons, miracles and changed lives)
 - D. Uniform testimonies of millions of people from all over the world
- II. Because of What Jesus Has Done (v. 36)
 - A. Jesus has just healed a man who was sick 38 years
 - B. Not just the miracle, but the message Deuteronomy 13:1-5
 - C. 34 miracles recorded in the Gospels (suspension of natural law and the enacting of supernatural forces)
 - D. Jesus pointed to His works John 14:11; John 9:16
 - E. Modern Miracles
 - 1. Where the Gospel is restricted
 - 2. Muslim Nations
 - a. More Muslims converting to Christianity in the last 30 years than at any other time Joel Rosenberg
 - b. 6 million Muslims converting each year

- III. Because of What God Has Decreed (vv. 37-38)
 - A. At Jesus' baptism Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22
 - B. At Jesus' transfiguration Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35
 - C. People are more interested in spiritual things than at any time in past 40 years George Barna
 - 1. They are shunning labels and pulling from contradictory belief systems
 - 2. God would tell them to believe in Jesus
- IV. Because of What Scripture Discloses (vv. 39-47)
 - A. Internal Evidence
 - (66 books, more than 40 authors, over 1500 years, 3 languages, 3 continents, but they all agree)
 - B. External Evidence
 - 1. Time
 - 2. Archaeology

(Sir William Ramsey tried to disprove Luke as a credible historian. He concluded that Luke was one of the best historians ever and converted to Christianity)

- C. Prophecy
 - 1. Fall of Jerusalem 100 years in advance
 - 2. Cyrus 160 years before his birth
 - 3. Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Messiah
 - The chances of a man fulfilling 48 predictions is 1 in 10157 "Science Speaks," Peter Stoner

(Texas filled 2 feet thick with silver dollars, the chance to select a pre-marked coin is 1 in 1017; US filled 2 feet thick with silver dollars, the chance to select a pre-marked coin is 1 in 1018; Africa and Asia filled 2 feet thick with silver dollars, the chance to select pre-marked coin is 1 in 1019)

Studying the Bible won't get you to heaven; only Jesus will. It's not how many times you've been through the Bible; it's how thoroughly the Bible has been through you. -Gypsy Smith

Greek Terms: marturo - to bear witness, testify

Publications Referenced "Science Speaks," by Peter Stoner

Figures Referenced - Diocletian, Joel Rosenberg, George Barna, Sir William Ramsey

Cross References: Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Matthew 3:17; Matthew 17:5; Mark 1:11; Mark 9:7; Luke 3:22; Luke 9:35; John 1:29; John 1:30; John 1:36; John 9:16; John 14:11; 2 Peter 1:16; 1 John 1:1-2

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