

## ***What Will You Leave Behind To Follow Jesus?***

**John 5:30-47**

### **Opening Thought and Question**

Jesus' desire is that people will trust Him by following Him...On Palm Sunday He wept that people did not truly recognize who He was so they could experience peace...

So here is the question, ***"How are we like the people who Jesus describes on Palm Sunday and in John 5 that are not experiencing peace even though Jesus is offering it to us?"***

## ***What Will You Leave To Follow?***

video

So pause for a minute and think about these two questions:

**Why does God ask us to leave things behind to follow Him?**

**AND**

**What have you left behind, or still need to leave behind, to follow Jesus?**

Thus far in John, including the people in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, we see what Jesus was asking them to leave behind so they could have eternal life...

**People on Palm Sunday**...their desires for an earthly King who would deliver them from Rome.

**John the Baptizer**...to step back and allow Jesus to be front and center.

**Early Jesus Followers**...their familiar everyday life.

**Nicodemus**...spiritual pride and familiar religiosity.

**Samaritan Woman**...her idolatry and her past.

**Invalid Man**...his habitual sin and how he was living.

**The Jewish Religious Leaders**...their unbelief.

As we look closer at John 5:30-47, we see Jesus giving testimony through five witnesses, giving reasons why they should trust Jesus and follow Him...leaving behind their unbelief so they can have eternal life!

In Deuteronomy 19:15 we read, *"...only on the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses shall a charge be established..."*

Jesus was being accused by these Jewish religious leaders, and because Jesus wanted a relationship with them, He gives them not two or three witnesses *but five*...He loved them and did not want them to live in unbelief any longer but to have eternal life...

Let's pause before we look at these five witnesses and think about this question:

***God wants a relationship with you that is personal & authentic...***

***What evidence has He given you of who He is so you will trust Him and follow Him?***

### ***Let's look at these five witnesses (signs) and move from unbelief to belief...***

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Witness: John the Baptizer (vs. 30-35)**

...Let's notice first how Jesus describes His relationship with His Father in verses 30, striking at the heart of sin...living independently from God and non-relationally... Jesus modeled relational dependence...

...John the Baptizer was prophesied about in the O.T. as one who would prepare the way for the messiah (Isaiah 9:1), bearing witness to who the Christ is, and they recognized him as a prophet...**So who has God sent to you to share who Jesus, is so you can trust and follow Him?**

### ***Let's look at the next two witnesses...***

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Witness: Jesus' Works (vs. 36)**

Isaiah speaks about the messiah (Christ) and what He would do in Isaiah 35:5-6, *"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy..."*

...Only God can do this by just speaking a word - and God is still doing miracles today!

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Witness: God the Father (vs. 37-38)**

...They heard God the Father's voice at Jesus' baptism.

...The word was not abiding in them because it was just information not a relationship leading to transformation!

### ***Let's take a closer look at the fourth witness...***

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Witness: The Scriptures (vs. 39-44)**

...The Apostles in the N.T. appealed to two areas of the life of Jesus of Nazareth, in order to establish that He was the Messiah—Christ, the Son of God...One was the *Resurrection* and the other was *fulfilled messianic prophecy*.

...The Bible is about 25% prophecy.

...The O.T. was written over about a 1000-year period, contains 100's of references to the coming Messiah...all of these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus Christ!

### ***Some specific examples and a warning to us as we study Scripture...***

...Born of a virgin in Isaiah 7:14 with Luke 1:26-35

...Born in Bethlehem in Micah 5:2 with Luke 2:1-7

...Palm Sunday in Zechariah 9:9 with Luke 19:35-37

#### ***So beware of the following:***

...Be careful of being Biblical without relationship.

...The Scripture is not a window to *look at* but a window to *look through* to Jesus from Genesis to Revelation.

...The purpose of the Bible is to move us into a personal relationship with God (The Author) so we will have life.

### ***Let's look at the final witness...***

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Witness: Moses (vs. 45-47)**

...The Jewish religious leaders were guilty of setting their hope in someone and something other than Jesus...***Do you ever do this as well?***

...Jesus could have quoted many passages in the Pentateuch like (Gen. 3:15 or Deut. 18:15) which pointed to Him, but the Jewish Leaders selectively followed the Law...***Do you ever do this as well?***

...The intent in keeping the Law was to be a gift of *how to live*, and it was never meant to be the way to experience salvation, **BUT** the Law reveals our inability to save ourselves...Remember Jesus has fulfilled the Law for us!

### ***Final thoughts and questions with prayer...***

Our life, what we say and do, is to be a witness or a sign pointing people to Jesus...Our need for grace!!!

For such a time is this...God is creating an opportunity for His Church to point people to our only hope (salvation) in the midst of a virus that is, for too many, becoming another idol which is controlling them, leading to fear and anxiety...

...How do the five witnesses in this passage help you leave behind \_\_\_\_\_ so you are free to follow Jesus?

...How can you utilize the five witnesses in this passage to share Jesus with people this week?

***Spend time praying with and for one another...***