

## Daniel Perrin – Lesson 6: More Testimonies About Jesus – Wednesday, November 6: The Witness of the Father

1. How can we confirm Jesus' claims of authority and identity?
  - a. We need evidence / testimony / witness
  - b. WHOSE testimony do YOU want to hear?
    - In other words, WHO do you trust? / Who is TRUST-WORTHY?
    - We want to hear from someone who knows what they are talking about ...
      - BY EXPERIENCE / BY THOROUGH ACQUAINTANCE WITH ALL SIDES of the issue
      - The Ancient of Days – nothing escapes Him.
  - c. In Spiritual Things (ALL THINGS!) — I TRUST the Father's Witness
    - I want to know, "Did I please the FATHER?"
  - d. No mere MAN'S testimony can "Prove" Jesus
    - That's why the Jewish leaders said in **John 8:13** – "*You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true.*"
    - Jesus AGREED that no mere man's testimony was sufficient
      - BUT Jesus DISAGREED with the leaders who claimed that HIS WITNESS WAS of a MERE MAN
      - **Vs. 14** – "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness IS true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going."
    - But He turned their attention to the Father's testimony in SEVERAL Places:
      - **Vs. 17-18** – *It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true.* <sup>18</sup> I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me."
      - **John 8:54** – *Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, ... of whom YOU say that He is your God."*
    - The Lesson points us first to **John 5:37-38** – *And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.* <sup>38</sup> *But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.*
      - The question is: Will WE trust the Father's testimony? / Will we even RECOGNIZE it?
        - OR, like the Jewish leaders, will we crowd out the Testimony of the Father
      - Behind every struggle with believing in Jesus is wrestling with FULLY TRUSTING the Father.
2. What is the Father's witness? – Lesson highlights events NOT included in John but His readers were all familiar
  - a. BAPTISM – **Matthew 3:17/Mark 1:11/Luke 3:22** – *And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
    - **DA 111-112** – *The Saviour's glance seems to penetrate heaven as He pours out His soul in prayer. Well He knows how sin has hardened the hearts of men, and how difficult it will be for them to discern His mission, and accept the gift of salvation. He pleads with the Father for power to overcome their unbelief, to break the fetters with which Satan has enthralled them, and in their behalf to conquer the destroyer. He ... asks for the witness that God accepts humanity in the person of His Son. // Never before have the angels listened to such a prayer. They are eager to bear to their loved Commander a message of assurance and comfort. But no; the Father Himself will answer the petition of His Son.*
      - At the BEGINNING of Jesus' ministry – the Father VERBALLY sets His seal of approval on the Son
        - **John 6:27** – *God the Father has set His seal on Him."*
        - Declares Him to be HIS SON / "well pleasing" to God (UNTAINTED BY SIN)
      - This is a Witness TO US (IF WE WILL TRUST THE FATHER) – that "*God accepts humanity in the person of His Son.*" – We are privileged to CLING TO JESUS

- b. In Matthew 17 NEAR THE END of Jesus' ministry,
- The disciples are struggling to understand and believe Jesus' predictions of His death.
    - Jesus is transfigured with the radiance of His glory before Peter, James, and John
    - Jesus AND His closest disciples hear confirmation from the Father!
  - **Matthew 17:5** – *While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly **a voice** came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"*
- c. FINAL WEEK – **John 12:17** – Testimonies were coming in from the people
- BUT we *still* need the testimony of the Father.
  - **John 12:20-33** – <sup>27</sup> "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify Your name." Then **a voice came from heaven**, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."
- d. BUT Why was there no Voice of Witness at the Cross?
- But the Father is APPARENTLY silent.
    - We know from Matthew that an earthquake, unnatural darkness, and the tearing of the Temple veil indicated God's involvement
  - 1. Jesus, HIMSELF, must trust the Father's testimony – just as you and I must trust the Father's testimony.
  - 2. The Cross must speak for itself.
    - Words can DECLARE – But Actions DEMONSTRATE
    - The Cross Itself testifies of Jesus' Glory – It IS His glory, His Character, His Love
    - AND the Father Himself testifies of His love Through the Son.
    - **Romans 5:8** – But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
    - **Romans 8:32** – He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?
    - The Father's glory is revealed IN the Son — He who has seen me, has seen the Father (**14:9**)
- e. **The Father's Testimony in Heaven AFTER Jesus' Resurrection**
- **Revelation 5:6-7** – *And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*
  - **DA 790** – Jesus refused to receive the homage of His people until He had the assurance that His sacrifice was accepted by the Father. He ascended to the heavenly courts, and from God Himself heard the assurance that His atonement for the sins of men had been ample, that through His blood all might gain eternal life. The Father ratified the covenant made with Christ, that He would receive repentant and obedient men, and would love them even as He loves His Son. Christ was to complete His work, and fulfill His pledge to "make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir." [Isaiah 13:12](#). All power in heaven and on earth was given to the Prince of Life, and He returned to His followers in a world of sin, that He might impart to them of His power and glory.