

JAMES RAFFERTY

2024

Q4

L7

Our Witness of Jesus

Nov. 14

Lesson 7: Blessed Are Those Who Believe (Thursday)

November 9-15

Thursday *November 14*

Our Witness of Jesus

Over and over, as John presents witnesses to Jesus, his point is to bring us to a sweeping conclusion: “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (*John 20:30, 31, NKJV*).

Imagine having been there, in person, in the flesh, and having seen Jesus do many of these miracles. We’d certainly believe, wouldn’t we? We’d like to think so; but, in some ways, we have *even more* reasons to believe in Jesus than did those who actually saw the miracles.

Why?

What are some of the things that we have today that those living at the time of Jesus didn’t have that should help us believe? See, for example, *Matt. 24:2, Matt. 24:14, Matt. 24:6–8*.

JOHN 13:19 - prophecy that we might believe

JOHN 14:29 - prophecy that we might believe

And that’s because we have not only the powerful accounts in John’s Gospel, we have the great advantage of seeing so much of what Jesus and other Bible writers predicted come true, such as the destruction of the temple (*Matt. 24:2*), the spread of the gospel around the world (*Matt. 24:14*), the great falling away (*2 Thess. 2:3*), and the world continuing to be a fallen and evil place (*Matt. 24:6–8*). All during the life and ministry of Jesus, His following remained a small and harassed group of men and women who, by all human standards, should have vanished from history a long time ago. How could they have known, as we do, that all these things would come

to pass? And they have. In fact, our own faith itself exists as a fulfillment of Jesus' own prophecy that the gospel would go to all the world.

EXPOUND ON IDEA THAT WE WONDER WHY WE DON'T SEE MIRACLES AS THEY DID BUT THEY DIDN'T SEE OR EVEN COMPREHEND BIBLE PROPHECY LIKE THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM OR DARK AGES OR WARS FAMINES PESTILENCE AND EARTHQUAKES LIKE WE HAVE
THEY HAD THEIR MIRACLES TO BOUY THEIR FAITH. WE HAVE THE INCREDIBLE MIRACLES OF BIBLE PROPHECY FULFILLED TO BOUY OUR FAITH.

And, today, about two thousand years later, as followers of Jesus, we too have the privilege of bearing witness to Jesus and to what He has done for us. It is not by the reasoning of Nathaniel, Nicodemus, the woman of Samaria, or the teachings of the Pharisees that we can know Jesus as the Messiah for ourselves. It is by the reading of the Scriptures under the convicting power of the Holy Spirit that we accept Jesus as the Savior of the world.

And then, each one of us, in our way, and out of our own relationship with God, can have a story to tell. Our story may not be as dramatic as seeing the dead raised or someone blind from birth healed, but that doesn't matter. What matters is that we know Jesus for ourselves, and in our own way bear witness to Him, as did those in John's Gospel.

SE-4Q-2024, *Themes in the Gospel of John*, by E. Zinke & T. Shepherd

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