

THE BOOK OF JOHN

SUNDAY NIGHTS, AT YOUR PLACE

BANQUET[®]
—FOR THE BUILDING UP & EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS—

JOHN 1:19-23

John 1:19-23 This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

The first thing to recognise here are the words in verse 19. This is the testimony of John. It doesn't say this is the teaching of John or the good ideas of John, or what John thought or felt. It says this is the TESTIMONY of John.

What is a testimony?

Someone's testimony and someone's life story can be two very different things. Christians say, "Oh I don't have a testimony to share". We are all to have the same testimony to share, even though we may not all have the same life story. Our testimony isn't dependent on our life story, it's dependent on how much revelation we have on what Jesus has accomplished in and for us.

Our testimony is based on our true revealed knowledge of 3 things.

1. What we have been saved from
2. What we have been saved for
3. The life changing work of healing, restoration and the reformation work of the Holy Spirit on the inside of us.

The word testimony is the same word 'witness' and we know in a court of law, a witness gives testimony, to what they know through what they have seen. The witness is to give an accurate account of what they know through what they have seen, and we see this is John.

We know John's testimony is correct and trustworthy, because God has allowed it to be written down in His book. John testified to who he was, what he saw, and who he wasn't. John didn't claim to be anything he wasn't and when the religious system came asking him who he was, he just said, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness", sharing the words of Isaiah.

John was more than just a voice and we too are more than any voice. John was the greatest of the old prophets, but he didn't need to tell anyone this. He just lived from who he knew he was and what he was called to accomplish. He didn't need a title or a platform or a position, he just was who he was in Christ and he lived from this posture 24/7. We are to be no different.

The religious system needs titles, positions, platforms, stages etc. to operate, where those who know who they are and the purpose for their lives, just live and demonstrate this dimension without any fuss. They just live out who they are, intertwined with God's purpose in everyday life.

John knew who he was, who the Messenger was and he knew the message, from the Messengers perspective, "Make straight the way of the Lord". We too must know all of these 3 things and be coming to know them more and more, if we are to truly testify and give an accurate account, of God and His purposes.

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QUESTIONS

1. How do you think John would have felt while been questioned by the religious system about who he was?
2. How important was it for John to know exactly who he was and his purpose and why?
3. What are our thoughts around what a true testimony is based upon?
4. Why is it that our testimony and our life story are completely different things, yet at the same time, our life story can lead us into receiving a powerful testimony?
5. Why does the religious system need titles, positions, platforms, stages etc. to operate, while those who are in Christ don't?