

Witnesses, to Jesus Christ



The Life of Jesus

3 years that changed the world forever

Luke 3:4-6

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
And all people will see God’s salvation.’ ”

LUKE 3:4-6

Central Idea

- ❖ The NT identifies a variety of witnesses to Jesus Christ, who confirm his identity and importance. It also stresses the importance of believers bearing witness to Christ in the world.

The Old Testament Witness

- ❖ **Acts 26:22–23 (NIV)** — 22 But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen—23 that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”
- ❖ also Lk 24:27 ; Jn 5:39–40 ; Heb 12:1–2

The witness of John the Baptist

- ❖ **John 1:6–8 (NIV)** — 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.
- ❖ also Mt 3:1–3 ; Is 40:3 ; Mt 3:11–12 ; Jn 1:15 ; Jn 1:19–31 ; Jn 3:26–30 ; Jn 5:33–35

The witness of the Holy Spirit

- ❖ **John 15:26 (NIV)** — 26 “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.
- ❖ also Ac 5:32 ; Ro 8:16 ; 1 Jn 5:6–9

The witness of the Father

- ❖ **John 8:18 (NIV)** — 18 I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”
- ❖ also Mt 3:17 ; Mt 17:5 ; Jn 5:37–38

The witness of Jesus Christ to himself

- ❖ **John 5:36 (NIV)** — 36 “I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.
- ❖ also Jn 13:13 ; Jn 14:11

The witness of Jesus Christ's miracles

- ❖ **John 14:11 (NIV)** — 11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.
- ❖ also Jn 10:25 ; Jn 15:24

The witness of the first Christians

- ❖ **Commissioned by Jesus Christ**
- ❖ **Acts 1:8 (NIV)** — 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The witness of converts

- ❖ **1 Peter 3:15–16 (NIV)** — 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.
- ❖ also 2 Ti 1:8