

17. Jesus Taught that the Scriptures Spoke of Him

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children clearly understand each of the formal witnesses that the Father gave about the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. Then, they will be able to explain to others how they can know for sure that Jesus is the Son of God and that He came to this earth to give life to all who will believe. In this topic, we are going to see that Jesus said that there were two other formal witnesses of the fact that He is the Son of God.

In our last topic, we saw that John the Baptist and the works of Jesus both gave testimony of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. Next, we will see that the Father also gave that same witness. John 5:37-38 says, “‘And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.’” Here, we see that the Father also gave witness that Jesus was His beloved Son.

Mark 1:9-11 says, “‘It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” Here, we see that the Father spoke from heaven to say that Jesus was His beloved Son. Then, just a few days before His death, Jesus said in John 12:27-28, “‘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. Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, ‘I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again.’” The Father made it very clear that Jesus was His Beloved Son who was carrying out His will.

However, we see Jesus gave three reasons why the Jews would not accept the witness of the Father. First, they did not hear His voice. Second, they had not seen His form. Third, they did not have the Word of the Father abiding in them. Jesus said that they could not have the Word of the Father abiding in them because they refused to believe in the One that the Father had sent. Here, we see that most of the Jews gathered that day to listen to Jesus had neither the Father nor the Son abiding in their lives. Needless to say, because they did not have the Father abiding in their lives, they refused to believe in the One that the Father had sent.

We go on to see that Jesus said that the Scriptures also gave testimony of Him. John 5:39-43 says, “‘You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. I do not receive honor from men. But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.’” Many of the Jews prided themselves on the way that they searched the Old Testament Scriptures. However, 1 Corinthians 2:14 says, “‘But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.’” Those Jews who were depending on their own efforts for salvation read the Old Testament and saw a history of the Jews.

The Old Testament spoke about Jesus from the beginning to the end but most of the Jews never saw Jesus in the Old Testament. Jesus gave understanding to two disciples when Luke 24:27 says, “And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Then, later that evening, Jesus was talking to His other disciples. Luke 24:44-45 says, “Then He said to them, ‘These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” Even the disciples lacked understanding of the Old Testament Scriptures until Jesus explained them to the disciples.

Jesus told the Jews that most of them were not willing to come to Him so that they could have life. John 1:11-12 says, “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” Most were unwilling to receive Jesus when He came. However, those who did receive Him were born of God and received spiritual life that will last forever. That was the reason why Jesus did not receive honor from most of the people. They were happy when He healed them and fed them. The greatest desire of Jesus was to do to the will of the Father and that immediately caused opposition, especially from the leaders of the Jews.

Jesus explained that the real problem of most of the Jews was the fact that they did not have the love of the Father in them. Romans 5:5 says, “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” Here, we see that the love of God is poured out in the hearts of all those who believe. Then, 1 John 2:5 says, “But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.” It is by the love of God in our hearts that we know that we know Him. Finally, 1 John 5:3 says, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.” Most of the Jews did not have the love of God in them because they had not come to Him by faith and so they did not keep His commandments.

Jesus had come in the name of the Father and most of the Jews refused to receive Him. In contrast, there were many false christs who claimed to be the Messiah during that period of the history of the Jews. These false christs came in their own name and many of the Jews believed them. They chose to receive their false christs and reject the true Messiah because they did not have the love of the Father in them. In fact, when the Roman soldiers told the Jewish chief priests about the resurrection of Christ, we read in Matthew 28:11-13, “Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, ‘Tell them, His disciples came at night and stole Him *away* while we slept.’” Here, we see that the Jewish religious leaders chose to pay a large sum of money to keep the soldiers from telling the truth.

Jesus went on to say in John 5:44-47, “‘How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? Do not think that I shall accuse you to

the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?” In these verses, we see that Jesus talked about the problem that many of the Jews had in their hearts. Mark 7:20-23 says, “And He said, ‘What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.’” Jesus said that the thing that defiles a man is the sin in the heart. The Jews showed the pride in their hearts by seeking honor from one another.

Jesus said that He did not need to accuse the Jews of their sin because there was already one who was accusing them. The Jews claimed that they followed the law of God that had been written by Moses. Jesus said that they claimed to believe Moses. However, Jesus said that they really did not believe Moses either. Moses wrote about Jesus in many different places in the Law (Genesis through Deuteronomy). When Jesus appeared to Moses at the burning bush, He asked God to tell who had sent Him. Exodus 3:14 says, “And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.’” We see throughout the book of John that Jesus is the I AM.

Moses also called Jesus a Prophet. Deuteronomy 18:15 says, “‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.’” John the Baptist said he was not the Prophet in John 1:21. Then, the next day he said in John 1:29, “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” Here, we see that John introduced the One who was the Prophet. Many of the Jews later said in John 7:40, “Therefore many from the crowd, when they heard this saying, said, ‘Truly this is the Prophet.’” Even though most of the religious leaders rejected Jesus, part of the common people later believed and placed their faith in Him.

Nearly all of the Jews, in the time of Jesus, claimed that they believed in Moses. Yet, they showed that they did not believe Moses because they refused to believe what Moses wrote about the Messiah, even though Jesus did many signs to prove that He was the Messiah. We want to help our physical and spiritual children both believe and learn to explain to others from the Word of God that Jesus is the Messiah and fulfilled all of the prophecies written about Him in the Old Testament that said He would come as the Savior of the world. We want to help them learn to show from Scripture that Jesus is the Son of God who is the One that gives everlasting life. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to show from the Bible that Jesus is the Son of God.