

A Faithful Witness

John 1.6-9

December 9th, 2018

Introduction

Main Points: The characteristics of a faithful witness are...

1. A Sense of _____
 - a. John is depicted as a prophet. Frequent reference is made in the OT to prophets being sent by God
 - b. 2 Chr. 24:19; 25:15; Jer. 7:25; 25:4, 5; 28:9; 35:15; 44:4
 - c. The Jewish crowds regarded John as a prophet (Matt. 21:26/Mark 11:32/Luke 20:6), and that is how Jesus also described him (Matt. 11:9/Luke 7:26).¹
 - d. John is the subject of Isaiah 40.3: A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. c.f. John 1.23; Luke 3.4; Mark 1.3; Matthew 3.3

¹ Kruse, C. G. (2003). *John: an introduction and commentary* (Vol. 4, p. 65). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.



2. _____

- a. The witness of the _____ (5:31, 34, 37);
- b. the witness of _____ (8:14; 18:37);
- c. the witness of _____ (5:17, 36; 10:25; 14:11; 15:24);
- d. the witness of _____ (5:39, 40, 46; 1:46);
- e. the witness of the _____ (1:7; 5:33, 35);
- f. the witness of the _____ (15:27; 19:35; 21:24; 1 John 1:2; 4:14);
- g. the witness of the _____ (15:26; 16:13, 14; 1 John 5:6).²
- h. The importance of witnesses is established
 - a. Deuteronomy 17.6; 19.15
- i. John is contrasted with the false witnesses at the trial of Jesus

3. A willingness to _____

- a. “The Baptist took up the work of the prophets, as respects their preparation for the universal extension of the divine call (Isa. 49:6). His message was to *men*, without regard to nation, sect, descent, or other considerations.”³
- b. Isaiah 6.8 - Here am I. Send me!
- c. “Surely those who know the great passionate heart of Jehovah must deny their own loves to share in the expression of His.” - Jim Elliot

4. Role _____

- a. There was a degree of confusion around who Jesus was...
- b. John 1.19-31
- c. Matthew 3.11
- d. Matthew 16.13-20
- e. Acts 19.1-7

5. _____

- a. The true light - the genuine light as opposed to false lights, people who claimed to be the Messiah but weren't
- b. John was preaching about something that hadn't happened yet
- c. Faithfulness creates a sense of anticipation
- d. We can never give up on the Gospel ministry, especially when its hard to see a reason why we should continue

Conclusion

- The reason why we don't want to go where God sends us is because we want to follow our own will not God's will. But it is only when we follow God's will and are in God's will that we can truly experience peace. (JM)
- God doesn't need superstars; all I need to be is a faithful witness.

² Vincent, M. R. (1887). [*Word studies in the New Testament*](#) (Vol. 2, pp. 41–42). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

³ Vincent, M. R. (1887). [*Word studies in the New Testament*](#) (Vol. 2, pp. 42–43). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.