

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry
C. The Second Passover of Jesus' Ministry

4. Five Infallible Witnesses Certify Jesus as the Son of God

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #063

Base Text: JN 5:31-47 (Parallel Texts: None)

Jesus Testified

31 *"If I alone testify about myself, my testimony is not valid.*

John the Immerser Testified

32 *"There is another like me, who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me, which he continues to bear witness to is true. 33 You have sent to John and he has set forth his decisive witness to the truth. 34 Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. 35 John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to bask in his light.*

The Miracles of Jesus Testified

36 *"I have a witness far greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given over to me to finish--the very works that I am continuing to do--these keep on bearing witness that the Father has sent me.*

The Father Testified

37 *"And the Father who sent me has himself testified decisively concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, 38 nor does his word dwell in you at all, for you are refusing to believe in the one he sent.*

The Scripture (Moses) Testified

39 *"You continue to study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that are bearing witness about me, 40 yet you continue to refuse to come to me so that you could actually have eternal life!*

41 *"I do not accept praise or glory from human beings, 42 but I have come to fully know you. I know for sure that you do not have the love of God abiding in your hearts. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. 44 How can you possibly believe, since you accept glory from one another, but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?*

45 *"I command you to stop thinking I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom you have fully set all your hope. 46 If you were really believing in Moses--and you are not--, you would have believed me, for he wrote about me. 47 But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?"*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *the words of Jesus are italicized in red*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	The Temple Courts, Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April, 31 AD (Month Fifteen)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IV: The Great Galilean Ministry

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

	C. The 2 nd Passover of Jesus' Ministry
Title	5. Infallible Witnesses Certify Jesus as the Son of God

COMMENT:

Jesus had finished making the ultimate claim that any being can make: to be fully Divine! Either Jesus was crazy, or the greatest liar in history, or he was truly Divine. What evidence did he have to support such a gargantuan claim? Jesus rolled out the greatest witness list every presented.

A year earlier Jesus had said to Nicodemus: **"I tell you the truth. We speak of what we know, and we bear witness to what we have seen, but people do not accept our testimony."** JN 3.11. In our reading for today we learn about five of the witnesses that Jesus had in mind when he said that to Nicodemus. (At the very end of his life Jesus will later add two more witnesses to the team in Jn 15.26-27, for a grand total of seven witnesses.)

This list of witnesses is crucial, for their collective testimony is the most infallible, reliable corroboration to the truth in the history of the world. They collectively testify to the most important truths, spoken by Jesus, that have been uttered since creation. These witnesses are the sure foundation for our faith in Him.

Every believer should get to know this list intimately. We have placed a header in the DAILY JESUS NEWS text today before each of the five witnesses to make them plain.

#1. Jesus was the first to testify. (5.31) As he points out, if he has no corroborating witnesses his witness is not legally valid. Under the Jewish Law, a minimum of two witnesses were required to establish any fact in a legal setting. Jesus is God, who cannot lie. Of course his testimony is infallible in itself. But it requires corroboration to be legally valid. So Jesus adds four more infallible corroborating witnesses in the following verses.

#2. John the Immerser was next on Jesus' list. (5.32-35) He was a prophet, and everyone accepted his testimony to be truthful. He certified Jesus as the Son of God--fully one with the Father. Only sixteen prophets in history had their witness included in the 16 prophetic books of the Old Testament. There were other prophets whose words were included in the Scriptures, such as Samuel, David, or Nathan. Moses was a prophet who authored the five books of the Pentateuch. Though John did not write Scripture himself, his words--as a contemporary prophet of Jesus--are recorded in the gospel as the most high quality human witness possible.

#3. Jesus listed his own miraculous works, which the Father gave him to do, as the third testimony concerning his Deity. (5.36) Jesus performed hundreds of true miracles--instantaneous, permanent transformations of physical matter--which by their power, and the loving, compassionate spirit in which they were performed were infallible proof that Jesus was God. Jesus demonstrated his divine authority over weather, nature, demons, every kind of physical and mental disease. Even the fish in the sea obeyed him.

#4. Jesus produced his Father as an infallible witness to his identity. (5.37-38) Three times in the ministry of Jesus the Father spoke from heaven in an audible voice as a testimony regarding Jesus. Like Jesus, the Father cannot lie. His witness is true. How many people could stand up in court and say *"God Almighty has spoken in an audible voice three times to confirm the truth of my witness."* No one but Jesus can say that!

#5. Finally, Jesus appealed to the testimony of the Old Testament Scriptures concerning himself, and especially the writings of Moses. (5.39-46) The Scriptures also make the claim to be true, making them utterly reliable. Every important aspect of Jesus' life was prophesied in advance in Scripture. That makes him unique among men.

When we assemble this partial list (two more witnesses remain) we have a credentials like nothing, or no one the world has ever seen or heard before. No other prophet, founder of a religion, holy man, or spiritual leader in history has a team of corroborating witnesses of this caliber. Check it out. No one even comes close. Nor has anyone else ever made claims like these concerning himself. And Jesus still has two more witnesses to add to his team later on!

Stage IV. The Great Galilean Ministry

APPLICATION:

Jesus intended for us to live in complete confidence in our relationship with God.

There are so many things we do not know about life, ourselves, the hereafter, and God. However, the most important things that we need to know have been revealed to us with the utmost veracity, so that we can put our full trust in the person and work of Jesus. That is why this witness list from Jesus is so important.

Faith in the Trinity is an eminently rational, reasonable thing to engage in, on the basis of what Jesus has revealed with this quality of corroborating testimony. And, because we experience the reality of what Jesus has spoken to us in our own experience when we believe in him, we also have that much more confidence to become witnesses about him ourselves.

How would you rate your confidence in Jesus right now?

Which of the five witnesses on the list encourage you the most in your faith? Are you consciously relying on all five? Is there a witness you need to give more attention to?