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# Interrogating The Witness

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Witnessing Jesus

Pastor Wil Nichols

September 16, 2018

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***Subject: Witnessing Jesus: Interrogating The Witness***

Matthew 28:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**

Previous Series (Witnessing to the Culture) Messages:

- **Overcoming the Sin of Silence** (Shame/Transform, Ignorance/Word, Fear/Anointing)
- **Going beyond the Zone** (“GO” Comfort/Home; Familiarity/Kin; Safety/Country)
- **The Impartation of God** (“TEACH” Will of God, Word of God, Spirit of God)
- **The Process of Baptism** (“BAPTIZE” Remission, Transformation, Regeneration)
- **Witnessing Life** (Formation of Life, Sanctification of Life, Ordination of Life)
- **Witnessing To The Strong Man** (Weaknesses/Disadvantages, Infirmities/Disabilities, Failures/Disappointments)

***Lesson Text***

Matthew 16:13–17 (AV)<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?** <sup>14</sup> And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. <sup>15</sup> He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?** <sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**

Job 1:6–8 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. <sup>7</sup> And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

***Introduction***

Last week’s messages: **Witnessing To The Strong Man:**

- We Overcome our Weaknesses/Disadvantages with the Power of our Numbers
- We Overcome our Infirmities/Disabilities with the Power of our Grace
- We Overcome our Failures/Disappointments with the Power of our God

Today we want to begin a new series which deals with the subject of our witness, Jesus!

Revelation 12:10–11 (AV)<sup>10</sup> And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup> And they overcame

him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

This passage speaks to a spiritual court going on in the heavenlies; the prosecutor is Satan, the defender is Jesus, the Judge is God, and those called as witnesses are the Christians or Saints.

In a normal court of law, witnesses are questioned or interrogated with an intentional purpose; That purpose being to discover what a person knows.

In the spiritual court, the same technique or questioning and interrogating to discover what we know; and whether we will be a credible witness for Christ; or whether Satan's accusations will discredit us.

From our Midweek series and the book "Share Jesus Without Fear", the technique of witnessing is known as the 5 "Share Jesus" questions:

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual beliefs?
2. To you, who is Jesus Christ?
3. Do you think there is a heaven or hell?
4. If you died, where would you go? Why?
5. If what you are believing is not true, would you want to know?

Jesus himself when he walked the earth, used questions to discover credible witnesses who could witness his divinity and destiny:

- He discovered one witness with an issue of blood; Luke 8: 45 ... **Who touched me?**
- He discovered another witness with an infirmity; John 5: 6... **Wilt thou be made whole?**
- And in our lesson text, Jesus again uses this technique of questions and interrogation.
  - Matthew 16: 13 ... **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?**
  - Matthew 16: 15 He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?**
  - Job 1: 8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job,... one that feareth God, and escheweth (avoids) evil?

As Christians, we are all in the Spiritual Court of Life, called by Jesus to be a witness of his divinity and destiny by witnessing his Saving Grace and Salvation.

The question is, when are interrogated, what will our witness say? What will people say about our witness? What will we say about our witness? And what will God say about our witness?

### ***Series and Subject: Witnessing Jesus: Interrogating The Witness***

Interrogating the witness of our people, ourselves, and our God!

#### ***I. Interrogating the Witness of People***

Matthew 16: 13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?**

What are people saying about our witness? Who is Jesus to them based on our witness?

Unfortunately, too many Christians are making a very poor witness for Christ.

They have accepted the call to be a witness, but not the responsibility of a witness.

1 Corinthians 6:12 (AV)<sup>12</sup> All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Too many get caught up in their emotions, in their flesh, or in their pride; and this is the witness that people see!

Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,<sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

To be an effected witness, people need to see Jesus in us through

- Longsuffering: Waiting patiently on the Lord
- Gentleness: With love and kindness have I drawn thee
- Goodness: Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good

## **II. Interrogating the Witness of Self**

Matthew 16: <sup>15</sup> He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?**

What are we saying about our witness? Who is Jesus to us based on our witness?

This is about who we are on the inside. Who we are when nobody is looking; too ourselves.

“You can fool some of the people all the time, you can fool all of the people some of the time, but you can’t fool yourself!”

As Christians, we know how to look the part on the outside, but God knows the inside.

1 Samuel 16:7 (AV)<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, ... for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,<sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

To be an effected witness, we need to see Jesus in us through

- Faith: Faithfulness to God (bless is the man that swears to his own hurt and change not)
- Meekness: Humility (God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble)
- Temperance: Power, Love, Sound mind (Let the mind be in you which was in Christ)

## **III. Interrogating the Witness of God**

Job 1: <sup>8</sup> And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

- What are people saying about our witness?
- What are we saying about our witness?
- **Finally, what is God saying about our witness?**

It's not just what people say about your witness (Longsuffering, Gentleness, and Goodness)

It's not just what you say about your witness (Faith, Meekness, Temperance)

But it's about what God says about you (Love, Joy, and Peace)

Matthew 16: <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**

Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace**, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

To be an effected witness, we need to see Jesus in us through

- Love: Conquerors Evil (Love Your Enemies)
- Joy: Overcomes Sorrow (Joy of the Lord is our strength, turn sorrow into Joy)
- Peace: Surpasses all Understanding (Be careful for nothing, perfect peace whose mind is stayed on him)