

## "Follow the Evidence... to Jesus!" - John 5:31-47

*"If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.*

*But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.*

*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. Y*

*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.*

*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?"*

- **Imagine this scenario:** You're standing in line at Starbucks. You're standing there holding a Bible. And somebody behind you notices it's a Bible and says, "Excuse me, is that a Bible? Why are you carrying that? Why do you believe in God? Why should I believe in God?"
  - The word "**believe**" (Greek πιστεύω - 'pisteuō') is mentioned **98x** in this Gospel.
  - The word "**witness**" (Greek μαρτυρία - 'martyria') is mentioned **11x** in this section alone.
    - **1 Pet 3:15NLT** - "... if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it."

**I. Evidence #1 for Jesus: *The BAPTIST*** (John) v.31-35

**II. Evidence #2 for Jesus: *The MIRACLES***(38) v.36

**III. Evidence #3 for Jesus: *The FATHER***(God) v.37-38

**IV. Evidence #4 for Jesus: *The SCRIPTURES***(Prophecy) v.39-43

**V. Evidence #5 for Jesus: *The LAW-GIVER*** (Moses) v.44-47

**I. Evidence #1 for Jesus: *The Baptist*** (John) - "If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be

saved. He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light."

• **What exactly did John the Baptist testify concerning Jesus Christ?**

- **Jesus is ETERNAL! Jn 1:15 NKJV** - "John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' "
- **Jesus is the SIN SACRIFICE! Jn 1:24 NKJV** - "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
- **Jesus is GOD THE SON! Jn 1:34 NKJV** - "I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

**II. Evidence #2 for Jesus: The Miracles (38)** - "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me."

• **Jesus often referred to the EVIDENCE of the supernatural miracles**

- **John 10:25 NLT** - "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me."
- **John 10:36-38 NLT** - "..why do you call it blasphemy when I say, 'I am the Son of God'? After all, the Father set me apart and sent me into the world. Don't believe me unless I carry out my Father's work. But if I do His work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father."
- **John 14:10-11 NLT** - "Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do."

• **What exactly did the 38 miracles testify concerning Jesus Christ?**

- **Jesus is LORD of CREATION! Mt 8:24-27 NLT** - "Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" Jesus responded, "Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!" Then He got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm. The disciples were amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked. "Even the winds and waves obey Him!"
- **Jesus is the LORD of SPIRITS! Mk 5:1-13 NLT** - "Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. Whenever he was put into chains and shackles - as he often was - he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones. When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to

meet him, and bowed low before him. With a shriek, he screamed, "Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don't torture me!" For Jesus had already said to the spirit, "Come out of the man, you evil spirit." Then Jesus demanded, "What is your name?" And he replied, "My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man." Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. "Send us into those pigs," the spirits begged. "Let us enter them." So Jesus gave them permission."

- **Jesus is LORD of LIFE! Jn 11:21-25, 40-44 NLT** -" Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again." "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"..." Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible." Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?" So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me." Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in grave-clothes, his face wrapped in a head-cloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

- **Mariam Asal, an Islamic evangelist for 7 years, she was teaching women verses from the Koran. She was teaching them prayers so they'd live an obedient Islamic life and she was on track, says the source, to become a female Ayatollah, a Shiite religious and political leader.** Eventually, her mother came down or exhibited severe M.S.—multiple sclerosis. It got so severe, that one day Mariam said "I prayed to Allah. I've served you for many years of my life. I've given you my youth and this is what you've done for me?"
  - **Her mom's health deteriorated even further.** Mariam became disillusioned with Allah, disillusioned with everything, and decided that she and her mom would kill themselves. They would commit suicide together.
  - **On the pre-arranged day, they met at a house, prepared everything to take their lives,** but overheard a radio broadcast, just as they were getting ready to commit suicide. A voice over the airwaves said, "Are you trying to kill yourself today?" It turns out, that it was a radio message, broadcast into her language, about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the hope that only He can give. Mariam immediately called the station... and that very day, she turned away from Allah, and received Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior.
  - **She then took her mother to get an MRI scan, and it was completely negative** -there were no biological signs at all, of multiple sclerosis. She knew the Lord Jesus supernaturally had healed her mother. It was

evidence that confirmed her brand new faith... and then led her mother to receiving Jesus Christ as well!

- **Approximately 6 million muslims** are converting to Jesus Christ every year!
- **In the last 19 years**, more muslims are coming to Jesus Christ, that the previous 1900 years combined? Why??
- Because of the **MIRACLES, DREAMS, AND EVIDENCE** that Jesus is sending them today!

**III. Evidence #3 for Jesus: *The Father* (God) - "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."**

- **What exactly did God, the Father testify concerning Jesus Christ?**
  - **That Jesus is the SON OF GOD! Mt 3:16-17** - "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*
  - **That Jesus is GOD'S MESSENGER! Matt 17:5** - "While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"*

**IV. Evidence #4 for Jesus: *The Scriptures* (Prophecy) - "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."**

- **What exactly did the Scriptures testify concerning Jesus Christ?**
  - **That Jesus is ETERNAL! Micah 5:2** - "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me *the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.*"
  - **That Jesus is the GOD-MAN! Isa 7:14** - "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, *the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*"
    - **One of my, by Dr. Peter Stoner, is called Science Speaks. In his book, this mathematician analyzes 8 prophecies written in the Bible about Jesus Christ, 250 years or more before He was born - only 8 predictions.** And using his scientific background and the principal of probability, Dr. Stoner said, "We find the chance that any one man in history to fulfill all 8 prophecies, accidentally,

would be 1 in 10 to the 17th power.” In other words, imagine 10 followed by (17) 0's. (100,000,000,000,000,000). 1 chance in that, is how hard it would be for 8 prophecies to be fulfilled by accident by Jesus.

- **Now what does that mean? Here's a little visual, on how hard it would be for Jesus to fulfill just 8 prophecies accidentally:** Imagine the **ENTIRE STATE OF TEXAS**, filled 2 feet deep silver dollars. Imagine that you marked ONE of those billions of silver dollars with an X on it in permanent marker. Then you blindfolded yourself, and started walking thru Texas, for days and days, just hoping to randomly find that ONE marked silver dollar...
- If you fill the **ENTIRE UNITED STATES** coast-to-coast 2 feet thick full of silver dollars and remarked ONE of them, the odds of a blindfolded person accidentally finding the one you remarked is **1 in 10 to the 18th power**. In other words, **10 followed by (18) 0's**.
- If you took the **ENTIRE CONTINENTS OF AFRICA AND ASIA** combined, and filled them 2 feet thick of silver dollars and pre-marked ONE, the odds of somebody finding that would be **1 in 10 to the 19th power**. In other words, **10 followed by (19) 0's**.
- Finally, Dr. Stoner calculated, that for one man to fulfill **48 PROPHECIES** (not just 8) would be beyond imagination: **1 in 10 to the 157th power - 10 with 157 zeroes behind it!!!** Dr. Stoner said in his book, *“In 100 billion years, there is no chance that the all the 300 prophecies Jesus fulfilled, could ever have been fulfilled without GOD.”*

**V. Evidence #5 for Jesus: *The Law-Giver* (Moses) -** *“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?”*

- **What exactly did Moses testify concerning Jesus Christ?**
  - **That Jesus is *DEVIL'S CONQUEROR!* Gen 3:15 NLT -** *“Then the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live. And*

*I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.*"

- **That Jesus is FATHER'S SACRIFICE! Gen 22:6,8 NKJV** -"So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together... Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the Lamb for a burnt offering."
  
- **That Jesus is DIVINE MESSIAH! Deut 18:15-16** -"Moses continued, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to Him. For this is what you yourselves requested of the LORD your God"
  - **Imagine if I take a banana, and say to you, "See this banana? Before I ate this banana, life was purposeless and meaningless. I had no joy, no hope. But after I ate this banana, I got joy and peace and love and purpose and I can now bench press 700 pounds because of this banana!"**
  - **The first question you would logically ask is "Are there any other people with a similar experience? Is there anyone else in the world who say that they also ate a banana of this type, and because of that, now have love, peace, joy, and and are extremely strong and completely changed because of it?"**
  - **When there are many, many people, witnesses with personal experience and convincing evidence, with a uniform testimony about the Person of Jesus Christ, it's time to listen to this person, and examine the evidence for yourself!**