



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: The Witness for Jesus**

**Date: February 9, 2025**

**Scripture Text: John 1:19-34**

**Series: Believe - The Study of the Book of John**

### **Notes:**

In a court of law, attorneys for both the prosecution and defense bring forth witnesses in an attempt to convince the jury of the truth. These witnesses have unique experiences that give them a story to tell in an effort to share the details of an event they saw first hand. Similarly, Christians have a unique experience non-Christians are unfamiliar with, salvation through Jesus Christ. The Christian's role is to testify to what they have experienced first hand to help the recipient know what the truth is. In our passage today, John the Baptist gives us an example of what a witness does to share with others the truth about Jesus.

#### **I. The Investigation of the Witness (John 1:19-21)**

We pick up our story with John the Baptist out in the wilderness preaching on the topic of repentance. We saw back in [John 1:6-8](#) that he was not the Light but his job was to testify of the Light (Jesus). With this message, curiosity and concern arise from the religious establishment (Sanhedrin). They sent priests and Levites out to investigate his message and to try and determine who he was.

- Those sent to investigate asked John who he was. How did he respond?
  - He denied being the Messiah (Christ), Elijah, or the Prophet.
  - He was asked if he was Elijah because in [Mal. 4:5](#), Malachi states that Elijah would precede the Messiah. Jesus later states that John filled the roll of Elijah in preceding the Messiah ([Matt. 11:14](#)).
  - “The Prophet” is a reference made by Moses in [Deut. 18:15](#).
- Was it inappropriate for these “Jews” to try and determine who John was and what his message was about?
  - It wasn't a problem that they sought out who John was. The problem was they were determining the truth of his message by their own expectations, not Scripture.
  - When are times when our expectations hinder the truth of God's word?
  - How is having a good understanding of the Bible help you have an accurate perspective of our circumstances?
  - How can a lack of biblical knowledge open a person up to being deceived by false teaching (humanism, Mormonism, etc.)?
  - How well equipped are you if confronted with the need to discern truth?



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### **II. Identification of the Witness ([John 1:22-23](#))**

The priests and Levites needed to bring back a report to ‘the Jews of Jerusalem’ who sent them, so when John refused to accept any of their suggestions, they finally said, ‘Who are you? John described himself based on [Isa 40:3](#). John saw himself, like Isaiah did, as a voice crying in the desert, in John’s case calling upon people to ‘make straight the way of the Lord’, i.e. to ready themselves for the coming of the Messiah.

- John knew what his calling was and was busy doing it. What would you say is your calling?
- How was John equipped to do what God had called him to do? How has He equipped you?
- How does John’s clarity of his purpose help him be an effective witness?
- How can you being clear about your purpose help you be an effective witness?

### **III. The Interrogation of the Witness ([John 1:24-28](#))**

“The Jews” wanted more information. They wanted to know by who’s authority did John say these things. Many times when people are confronted with the truth, even when it is contrary to their beliefs or expectations, they have a decision to make, will they accept or reject it.

- Describe in your own words the truth about Jesus.
- Why are people hesitant at times to accept the truth about who Jesus?
- As the attention started to focus more on John, he quickly clarified who he was compared to Jesus. He was not even worthy to undo His sandal.
  - Why is humility an important trait when we witness about Jesus?

### **IV. The Introduction by the Witness ([John 1:29-34](#))**

The next day John sees Jesus and proclaims “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” He continues to exalt Jesus (has a higher rank than I) and to direct people’s attention toward Him, even stating that Jesus was the Son of God!

- John speaks first-hand as to what he has personally “seen” and “testified”.
- What about Jesus have you experienced first-hand that you could share with another?
- How can having a growing, maturing relationship with Jesus impact our witness for Him?
- When you share a testimony about Jesus, can you share something that happened yesterday, last week? Our testimony goes beyond our salvation story.