

Why won't men come to Him?

36 But I have greater **witness** than *that* of John: for **the works which the Father hath given me to finish**, the same works that I do, bear **witness** of me, that the Father hath sent me. 37 And the **Father himself**, which hath sent me, hath borne **witness** of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. 38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. 39 **Search the scriptures;** for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which **testify** of me. 40 And **ye will not come to me**, that ye might have life. 41 I receive not honour from men. 42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. 43 I am come in my Father's name, and **ye receive me not**: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. 44 **How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?** 45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is *one* that **accuseth you, even Moses**, in whom ye trust. 46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of

me. 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

1. Jesus is God and He has witnesses to that

- a. John the Baptist was a witness 36 But I have greater **witness** than *that* of John: for **the works which the Father hath given me to finish**, the same works that I do, bear **witness** of me, that the Father hath sent me.
 - i. John had told them that he had come to prepare the way for the Lord
 - ii. John told them that Jesus was the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world
 - iii. John had told them that Jesus was God
- b. The works that Jesus did proved that He was God 36 But I have greater **witness** than *that* of John: for **the works which the Father hath given me to finish**, the same works that I do, bear **witness** of me, that the Father hath sent me.

- i. Nicodemus knew that His works proved something **3:2**
The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.
 - ii. The people recognized that He was working works like the Christ would do **7:31** And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this *man* hath done?
 - iii. Even the religious leaders knew that He was doing miracles **11:47** Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.
- c. The Father, Himself, had testified that Jesus is indeed God **37** And the **Father himself**, which hath sent me, hath borne **witness** of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. **38** And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.
- i. God spoke from Heaven **Matthew 3:16-17** And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the

water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: **17** And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

ii. The mount of Transfiguration **Matthew 17:1-5** And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, **2** And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. **3** And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. **4** Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. **5** While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, **This is my beloved Son,** in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

iii. God spoke even from the heavens in their hearing and they still reject Him

- d. The Scriptures taught that He is God **39 Search the scriptures;** for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which **testify** of me.
- i. Just knowing the facts of the Scriptures is not enough
 - ii. You must act on what the Bible says not just know it
 - iii. The Scriptures testify of Jesus yet they didn't recognize him
 - iv. They read the Bible to know what they could do not what Jesus had done **Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.**
 - v. Nothing we do is good enough **Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; And we all do fade as a leaf; And our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.**
2. Regardless of the truth they refused to come to Jesus **40 And ye will not come to me,** that ye might have life.
- a. He wanted them to come

- i. He didn't come into the world to condemn the world
3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
 - ii. He is the Saviour of the world **4:42** And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard *him* ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.
 - iii. Do you think that He finds pleasure in the death of the wicked **Ezekiel 18:23** Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord God: *and* not that he should return from his ways, and live?
 - iv. He loves the world **3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
 - v. Remember He came to them and they rejected Him
1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- b. The Jews rejected the truth and every witness

- i. He came to His own and they wouldn't receive Him
1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- ii. They preferred the darkness and sin over light and right
John 3:19-20 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men **loved darkness** rather than light, because their **deeds were evil.** **20** For every one that doeth evil **hateth the light**, neither cometh to the light, lest his **deeds should be reproved.**
- iii. They refused to believe that God had sent Jesus **43** I am come in my Father's name, and **ye receive me not:** if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.
- iv. They thought that they already had life **39** **Search the scriptures;** for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which **testify** of me.
 1. They knew the Scriptures without knowing the God of the Scriptures
 2. They were good hearers but poor doers. They could know without believing

- v. They were more concerned about what each other thought than what God thought or what the Bible said
44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?
- vi. They thought they were good enough on their own and didn't need to repent and turn to Christ
- vii. The Bible had become a way of defending a way of life rather than seeking truth to apply to their lives

3. Even so Jesus wouldn't accuse them but Moses, their hero, would **45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is *one* that **accuseth you, even Moses**, in whom ye trust. 46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?**

- a. The purpose of the law is to show us our need of a Saviour **Galatians 3:19-24 **Wherefore then *serveth* the law?** It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. 20 Now a mediator is not *a mediator* of one, but God is one. 21 *Is***

the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for **if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.** 22 But the scripture hath **concluded all under sin,** that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our **schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ,** that we might be justified by faith.

- b. The law shuts every mouth **Romans 3:19** Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.
- c. They thought that Moses would come to their aid because they sought to obey the law and therefore be righteous and gain points with God **Romans 10:1-4** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but **not according to knowledge.** 3 For they being **ignorant of God's righteousness,** and going about to **establish their own righteousness,** have not

submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4
For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every
one that believeth.

- d. They didn't really believe Moses but used Moses
 - i. Moses did tell them about their sin
 - ii. Moses did teach them of their need of a Saviour
 - iii. The Lamb is all over what Moses wrote so they had plenty of information about the need of a substitute to take the wages of their sin
- e. They got out of the Scriptures what they wanted
 - i. They wanted to feel good about themselves
 - ii. They did not want to see their sinful condition
 - iii. They were excited to see that they were the chosen people like no other but failed to see that it wasn't them or their merit but what He did on the cross

4. Practical lessons for us to learn

- a. There is ample proof of who Jesus is and what He was doing
 - i. Men simply do not want to believe

- ii. Men prefer to not see Jesus for who He is because that will cause them to see themselves for who they are, sinners in need of a Saviour
- iii. The question is not who Jesus is but who do you really think that you are!
- b. He wants people to be saved, to come to Him, but they refuse
- c. Men prefer to find comfort in their prideful ability to think
- d. Men want to see themselves as basically good when God says that no one is good
- e. They were more concerned about what others thought of them than what God thought
- f. They wanted to fit in and it simply wasn't what the majority of people wanted to believe
- g. They used the Bible and other things to feel good about themselves
- h. Men prefer to attack the Bible because if not it attacks them
- i. It is not our responsibility to get people to accept Christ but to give them the evidence that He is God and the only means of salvation

- j. God wants them to be saved so we are sent to take that message to the world
- k. We know that many if not most will reject the message but that is not our part of the equation-ours is to give the message and theirs is to believe
- l. People go to hell because they will not come to Christ, they will not believe