

The Witness

John 1:6-8

Introduction: Last week we saw the Apostle John give an eternal account of Jesus Christ. We saw Jesus was not part of God's creation, He was one of the triune God head, a participant in the creation of the heaven's and earth, the man and the woman, the animals and the fishes. This week the apostle John gives us the example of a witness. The Apostle knew the most effective way to tell folks about Jesus is through a witness. The Apostle himself was writing this gospel as a witness. Since John the Baptist and Jesus were cousins and both of them had been spared the death of Herod the Great we should realize there is no greater witness than that of someone who has been saved from death and now is given the opportunity to experience life. (Explain how the Baptist found himself in the wilderness, then explain how salvation places the Christian in John the Baptist's exact position). You and I find ourselves in the place of John the Baptist. We find ourselves in the wilderness and as a born again Christian we find ourselves as a witness. But are you willing to be a witness? This morning I want us to see three things that John the Baptist recognized about his life; we need to recognize and practice them as well if we are to have a successful witness of Jesus Christ. Notice with me...

I. John (the Baptist) bore witness as a messenger. v.6

- There had been 400 years of silence since the last prophet preached in Israel. (God's word may not be silent but sure is very quiet today)
- John came from the wilderness (the world) where he had been since the days of Herod the Great. (you are redeemed from the wilderness [world])
- John was sent from God to bear light of the coming Son of God! (The Great Commission calls us to bear light and be salt)
- You and I are given the same witness, before His Rapture!

II. John (the Baptist) bore witness with a motive. v.7

- John intended for others to believe. (What's your motive, someone's soul or what?)
- John came bearing the truth of God's word as a light to all! (Does your motive bear Gods word?)
- A witness is called to testify about what they know, not how they feel. (Does your motive come from experience or opinion?)

III. John (the Baptist) bore witness with a method. v.8

- John served the purpose of the moon, (explain the moon's purpose) he was not light but he reflected light from the son.
- Just like John, you and I are sent to bear witness of the light of Jesus, not to be that light.

Conclusion: John the Baptist waited most of his life for the call to out of the wilderness. When that call came John was more than happy to obey. If you are saved you have been called out of the wilderness, you have obeyed that call, and this morning I ask are you the witness God wants you to be? Maybe you are here this morning and you are experiencing Gods call to come out of the wilderness? **As I conclude this message I want to ask our musicians to come forward and prepare a hymn of invitation.** Before you can be called a witness you must experience something, right. When it comes to Jesus you must experience Him, personally. That only comes through salvation. I hope you truly understand that, if you do it means you find yourself in one of two situations. 1) you are saved, you know it and there are not doubts; 2) you are not sure and you need to make sure! If you're sure of your salvation the follow up is this, are you the witness you should be? If you're not sure of your salvation you need to come and make sure! While we sing if God is dealing with your heart will you come?