

Becoming a Faithful Witness

BECOMING A FRUITFUL WITNESS

RELIGION VS RELATIONSHIP

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

John 3:1-18

Becoming a Field-working Witness

John 15:4-5

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:8

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

For us to become fruitful witnesses we must recognize some

I) Common **STUMBLING BLOCKS**

John 3:1-9

STUMBLING-BLOCK, Any cause of stumbling; that which causes to err.

1 Corinthians 8-9

9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

1 Corinthians 1:22-24

22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

First we see

A) The Stumbling block of **RICHES**

John 19:39

39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.

The cost of the tomb can only be guessed, but very expensive and the spices are estimated in our time to be worth about \$150,000-\$200,000. Both had great wealth and they also had great admiration for their Master.

Nicodemus was believed to be one of the three richest men in Jerusalem, which of course was one of the wealthiest cities.

Mark 10:25

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Next we see

B) The Stumblingblock of **RELIGION**

Vs. 1

Galatians 6:15

15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

Titus 3:5

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

1) He was a **PHARISEE**

Vs. 1a

Philippians 3:4-6

4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Read

2) He was in the **SANHEDRIN**
Vs. 1b

There were only 71

John 7:50-51

And lastly

C) The Stumblingblock of **REASON**
Vs. 2-9

1) Reasoning who **JESUS** really is
Vs. 2-3

Read vs 2

John 1:1-5 (review last week)

John 8:58

58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

John 14:9

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

Revelation 21:6-7

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelation 22:16

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

John 20:28

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

Read vs 3

1 Peter 1:23

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

2) Reasoning how this is **POSSIBLE**

Vs. 4-8

Read vs. 4

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Mark 10:15

15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Read vs 5-6

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Read vs. 7-8

Ezekiel 37:9-10

9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

Genesis 1:2

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Spirit=ruwach

Genesis 7:22

22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

breath=ruwach

Ezekiel 37:9

9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

wind=ruwach

breath =ruwach

John 3:8

wind=pneuma

Spirit= pneuma

Read vs. 9

Mark 10:26-27

26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

For us to become fruitful witnesses we must recognize the

I) Common STUMBLING BLOCKS

II) Crystal Clear SOLUTION

John 3:10-16

Revelation 22:1

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

John 3:36

36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

1 John 5:12

12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

A) Jesus talks about **PAST** Solutions
Vs. 10-14

Read vs. 10

Matthew 22:29

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

1) The Past solution to raise the **DEAD**
Vs. 11-12

1 Corinthians 3:1-2

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Ezekiel 36:25-27

25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

2) The Past Solution to save from **DEATH**
Vs. 13-14

Numbers 21:7-9

7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

8 And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

B) Jesus talks about the only **PRESENT** Solution
John 3:15-18

Read vs 15 and 16

1 John 5:13

13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Acts 16:30-31

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

John 6:47

47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**Forsaking
All
I
Trust
Him**

Titus 1:2

2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Read vs 17 and 18

1 John 2:2

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Romans 5:8

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Galatians 2:21

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Conclusion

1) Jesus makes Himself available vs 2

2) Jesus doesn't attack him. It's not just his problem it's mankind's problem vs 3

3) Jesus meets him where he is and uses relatable Scripture to reach him. Vs 5-8

4) Jesus shares the truth graciously
Vs 15-18