



SERIES: Believe
SPEAKER: DAN COKE
Thursday, December 28, 2023
Scripture: John 5:32-35
TITLE: The Forgotten Witness

John 5:32–35 (ESV): *There is another who bears witness about me, and I know that the testimony that he bears about me is true. You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light.*

Old Testament judicial process is what Jesus is reminding His accusers of here. Deuteronomy 19:15 says, “Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.” In this case, the two witnesses would be the Son of God and John the Baptist. In John 1:19-20, we’re told, “And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, ‘I am not the Christ.’”

Then later in John 1:29, John the Baptist declared that Jesus was, “the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

John the Baptist was someone that intrigued the religious leaders. Some of them even went to be baptized by John. They all recognized that John was doing something worth noticing, that is, until John was arrested and later beheaded. Then, they forgot all about the witness of John. Jesus says John was a burning and shining lamp, and that they were willing to rejoice in his light for a while. There are significant points that are worth pointing out about that statement.

1. The world is full of darkness and God sends His people to be a light in the darkness.
2. Light is for the purpose of helping people see the truth about God.
3. We should live for God in such a way that unbelievers have no excuse for rejecting God.

John the Baptist did all three of these things for the religious opponents of Jesus and they have forgotten his witness. But you know who didn’t forget John’s witness? Jesus didn’t. God doesn’t forget your witness. Nothing we do goes unnoticed by God. And if we are faithful witnesses, He is glorified and the world is left without excuse.

John was a little light, a small lamp pointing to Jesus. And Jesus comes not as a small lamp but as the light of the world. How spiritually blind these men must have been to not be able to recognize Jesus as someone who is come from God!

What about you? Do you feel like a forgotten or overlooked witness among your family and friends? Take heart in knowing that God hasn't forgotten you. Your God hasn't overlooked you. Just don't give up on faithfulness to Him.

Still, there's others of you, maybe you're the one doing the overlooking. You may have grown accustomed to overlooking that one person that God has placed in your life to keep you accountable to Christ? If that's you, stop running from accountability! Allow it to build you up in Christ.