

Witnesses of Jesus

Use of Witnesses

Eye Witness testimony used in everyone's life!

Ancient use in legal disputes.

Deut. 19:15 ¹⁵ "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on **the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.**

Use of Witnesses

Jesus' instructions –

John 8:17 ¹⁷ "Even in your law it has been written that the testimony of two men is true.

Matthew 18:15-16 ¹⁵ "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. ¹⁶ "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.

Use of Witnesses

Apostolic Instruction –

2 Corinthians 13:1 ¹This is the third time I am coming to you. Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

1 Timothy 5:19 ¹⁹Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses.

Even TODAY -

"The **testimony of a witness that he saw the accused commit** or participate in the commission of the crime for which the accused is being tried **shall be admissible in evidence** in a criminal prosecution in any trial court ordained and established under article III of the Constitution of the United States."

18 U.S. Code § 3502 - Admissibility in evidence of eye witness testimony

Witnesses in 1st Century

“Even at the human level, you must surely assume the New Testament writers were not twits, really stupid. Even with that amount of respect, it pays to listen and listen and listen and think through things again.” — DA Carson

¹ What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we *have seen* with our eyes, what we have *looked at* and *touched* with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—

² and the life was manifested, and *we have seen and testify and proclaim* to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

³ what we *have seen* and *heard* we *proclaim* to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

⁴ *These things we write*, so that our joy may be made complete.

1 John 1:1-4

¹ What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen, **Seen, 'looked at', touched, heard –**

² and the life was manifested, and *we have seen and testify and proclaim* **Testify and Proclaim** with the Father and was manifested to us

³ what we have seen and heard we *proclaim* to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the **WRITE** with His Son Jesus Christ.

⁴ *These things we write*, so that our joy may be made complete.

1 John 1:1-4

Written Record of Testimony = NT

³⁰ Therefore **many other signs** Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

³¹ but ***these have been written so that you may believe*** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:30-31

His Miracles – Testified / Proclaimed / Written

The NUMBER !

Nearly 40 described – ‘many others’

Public – ‘in your midst’

In presence of ENEMIES

Diverse – nature, healing & demons, death

Control of Nature

1. Calming the storm – Matthew 8; Mark 4; Luke 8
2. Feeding 5,000 - Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9; John 6
3. Walking on water - Matthew 14; Mark 6; John 6
4. Feeding 4,000 – Matthew 15; Mark 8
5. Fish with coin – Matthew 17
6. Fig tree withers – Matthew 21; Mark 11
7. Huge catch of fish – Luke 5; John 21
8. Water into wine – John 2

Healing of Individuals

1. Man with leprosy – Matthew 8; Mark 1; Luke 5
2. Roman centurion's servant – Matthew 8; Luke 7
3. Peter's mother-in-law – Matthew 8; Mark 1; Luke 4
4. Two men possessed – Matthew 8; Mark 5; Luke 8
5. Man with palsy – Matthew 9; Mark 2; Luke 5
6. Woman with bleeding – Matthew 9; Mark 5; Luke 8
7. Two blind men – Matthew 9
8. Dumb, devil-possessed man - Matthew 9
9. Canaanite woman's daughter – Matthew 15; Mark 7
10. Boy with demon - Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9

11. Two blind men – Matthew 20; Mark 10; Luke 18
12. Demon-possessed man in synagogue – Mark 1; Luke 4
13. Blind man at Bethsaida – Mark 8
14. Crippled woman – Luke 13
15. Man with dropsy – Luke 14
16. Ten men with leprosy – Luke 17
17. The high priest's servant – Luke 22
18. Nobleman's son at Capernaum – John 4
9. Sick man at the pool of Bethsaida – John 5
20. Man born blind – John 9

Raising the Dead

1. Jairus' daughter – Matthew 9; Mark 5; Luke 8
2. Widow's son at Nain – Luke 7
3. Lazarus – John 11

Response Toward Lazarus! - John 12

⁹ The large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead.

¹⁰ But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also;

¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.

How Many Believers?

Often – ‘only 120 brethren’ (cp. Acts 1:15)

BUT MANY, MANY more

Witnesses of the above list!

5000 + 4000 = 9,000!

THEN THE BOOK OF ACTS

1st Sermon - Acts 2:22

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words:
Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to
you by God with miracles and wonders
and signs which God performed through
Him *in your midst, just as you
yourselves know—*

Acts 2:23-24

²³ this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

²⁴ **"But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.**

32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to
which ***we are all witnesses.***

Acts 2.32

Acts 2

³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

Acts 2:38-39

³⁸ Peter *said* to them, "**Repent**, and each of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins**; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

Their Response

⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

YOUR RESPONSE?