

## WITNESSES FOR JESUS – 4

### APRIL 28, 2024

**INTRO:** Jesus didn't save us and take us directly to Heaven to be with Him. He left us here to be witnesses and ambassadors for Him. **2 COR. 5:17-21 NLT.** Our responsibility is to represent Christ in such a way that others want what we have. A witness is someone willing to die for the cause, and an ambassador is a representative of the highest order.

#### **The Spirit's Part (JOHN 16:7-11 NLT)**

We are not alone. A major work of the Spirit is to convince and convict the lost of three things: sin, righteousness, and judgment.

- Sin, not sins: The sin is not believing in Christ.
- Righteousness: Jesus made right standing with God available by His sacrifice on Calvary.
- Judgment: Satan has been judged for his rebellion and those who reject Christ will experience the same judgment.

#### **Our Part (2 COR. 5:20 NLT)**

We are to speak to others on the behalf of Christ and let them know the truth and see the truth being lived out in our lives.

#### **Being an Effective Witness**

- 1.) Loves Jesus wholeheartedly.
  - A.) **1 JOHN 4:19-21** We've experienced great love when we got saved.
  - B.) It's a love so great, that it transformed our lives. We're not the same person because we passed from death to life.
- 2.) Love motivates us to want the same for others.
  - A.) We are responsible to love others into the kingdom.
  - B.) **ROM. 1:18-23 NKJV** When a society suppresses truth, they open themselves up to God's wrath. Ninevah.
  - C.) **ROM. 1:24-32** Reveals what a society looks like when God gives them up to a debased mind. Sodom.
- 3.) Humility and gentleness are required.
  - A.) **ROM. 2:4** "Taste and see". We've tasted God's goodness and we want others to do so also.
  - B.) Don't brow beat people with the truth.
- 4.) Always be ready to give the right answer.
  - A.) **1 PET. 3:15-16 NLT** Never with a holier-than-thou-attitude.
- 5.) Consider ourselves servants.

- A.) **JOHN 15:18-25 NLT** If they hated Jesus, they'll hate us.
- 6.) Courage is necessary.
  - A.) **MT. 10:16** Shepherds usually protect sheep from wolves. Jesus says to exercise wisdom and innocence while in the world surrounded by wolves.
- 7.) Don't be discouraged.
  - A.) Remember the characteristics of love (**1 COR. 13:4-8 AMPC**).
  - B.) We are to be patient with people as God was patient with us.

### **Prodigals JER. 31:16-17 HCSB**

The Prodigal Son: Kenneth Baily, author of the Cross and the Prodigal.

**Conclusion:** God wants all men to be saved and wants all prodigals to return home. It's an honor to be a part of this most important work of God.