

WITNESSES TO JESUS

(FLASHPOINTS IN JESUS' MINISTRY — PART 2)

John 5:30-47

(John 5:30-47), "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. {31} If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. {32} There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. {33} Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. {34} But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. {35} He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. {36} But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. {37} And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. {38} And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. {39} Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. {40} And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. {41} I receive not honor from men. {42} But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. {43} I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. {44} How can ye believe, which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that cometh from God only? {45} Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. {46} For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. {47} But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"



S ALL FORTY-SEVEN VERSES IN JOHN CHAPTER 5 REVOLVE AROUND THE SINGLE EVENT of Jesus telling the man who had been unable to walk for 38 years to:

". . . Rise, take up thy bed, and walk."

Immediately the man was healed and took up his bed and walked. The text then adds the words:

". . . And on the same day was the Sabbath."

RATHER THAN **REJOICING** and **CONFESSING** JESUS AS LORD, THE AUTHORITIES WERE **IRATE**.

(V. 16), "And therefore did the Jews **PERSECUTE** Jesus, and **SOUGHT TO SLAY HIM, BECAUSE** he had done these things **ON THE SABBATH DAY."**

The religious authorities set out on a **RELENTLESS CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY JESUS**. Though it took several months to accomplish, the end result of their pursuit was **JESUS' CRUCIFIXION**.

In our last study in John 5, we looked in great detail at Jesus' personal defense of His **RIGHT** and **AUTHORITY** to command the impotent man to carry his bed on the Sabbath. **JESUS DID NOT BACK DOWN** when He was opposed. To use an old expression, **JESUS DREW THE BATTLE LINES IN THE SAND** over the Sabbath issue. **HAD JESUS SIMPLY REMAINED SILENT**, He could have avoided the persecution directed at Him. **WE CAN BE THANKFUL** Jesus was willing to take the heat, because in the process Jesus revealed who He really was.

In the previous message from John 5, we considered **FIVE CLAIMS OF JESUS WE CALLED FLASHPOINTS IN JESUS' MINISTRY**. THOSE FIVE CLAIMS WERE:

- I. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE **EQUAL WITH GOD**
(V. 18), "Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."
- II. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE IN **PERFECT ACCORD WITH GOD'S WILL**
(V. 19), ". . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise."
- III. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE **THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE**
(V. 24), "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth **my word**, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting **life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto **life**."

IV. JESUS CLAIMED TO HAVE **POWER OVER THE GRAVE** (V. 28-29), "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, {29} And **shall come forth**; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

V. JESUS CLAIMED TO BE **THE FINAL JUDGE OF ALL MANKIND** (V. 22), "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:"

What Jesus said that day **WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED** by the religious authorities. They did not believe what He had to say for **a second**. As far as they were concerned, **no sane person** would have ever made such claims as Jesus had made that day. The truth is known, **had we been there that day** listening to Jesus, we might have had **a difficult time believing** all He had to say, too. Jesus really did make some very **BOLD CLAIMS**. It is acceptable to make bold claims if the bold claims are the truth.

C. S. LEWIS was a professor at **Oxford** University. Before becoming a Christian, he could have been accurately described as a **skeptic** and agnostic. He denied the **deity** of Christ. His conversion to Christ is described in a book title **Surprised by Joy**. In his book titled **Mere Christianity** he writes:

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic on the level with a man who says he's a poached egg - or else he would be the devil of hell; you must take your choice. Either this was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But don't come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great moral teacher. He hasn't left that alternative open to us."

JESUS UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFICULTY that sinful man would have accepting THE CLAIMS He made. That is part of the reason **Jesus moved beyond** the **FIVE DECLARATIONS OF WHOM HE WAS** and summoned **FIVE WITNESSES** that bore testimony to His truthfulness. Listen for the word "**witness**" as it is used five times in two verses:

(V. 31-32), "If I bear **witness** of myself, my **witness** is not true. {32} There is another that beareth **witness** of me; and I know that the **witness** which he **witnesseth** of me is true."

S The O.T. law required multiple witnesses to verify important claims. Jesus knew a single witness was not sufficient. He had read Moses: (Deu 19:15), "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of **two witnesses**, or at the mouth of **three witnesses**, shall the matter be established." (Also Num. 35:30)

S **JESUS UNDERGIRDDED HIS CLAIMS** by sharing, not two just two or three witnesses, Jesus summoned **FIVE WITNESSES TO TESTIFY** IN HIS BEHALF.

THE FIVEFOLD WITNESS TO JESUS

- I. WITNESS #1 – **JOHN THE BAPTIST** (V. 33-36)
- II. WITNESS #2 – **JESUS' WORKS** (V. 36)
- III. WITNESS #3 – **THE FATHER** (V. 37)
- IV. WITNESS #4 – **THE SCRIPTURE** (V. 39)
- V. WITNESS #5 – **MOSES** (V. 46)

I. WITNESS #1 – JOHN THE BAPTIST

(V. 33), "YE SENT UNTO **JOHN**, and he bare **WITNESS** unto the truth."

S **JOHN THE BAPTIST** began to minister six months before Jesus. He served in the wilderness and baptized in the Jordan river. He called people to repent and be baptized. Multitudes responded to his message.

S WHEN JESUS SAID, "**YE SENT UNTO JOHN**" (V. 33), it appears to refer to **the investigating committee** sent to John to discover who he was and what he was teaching:

(John 1:19), ". . . The Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, '**WHO ART THOU?**'"

S **JOHN'S ANSWER WAS VERY CLEAR IN BOTH THE NEGATIVE AND THE POSITIVE.**

NEGATIVE:

#1. HE WAS **NOT THE CHRIST** (1:20)

#2. HE WAS **NOT ELIJAH** (1:21)

#3. HE WAS **NOT THAT PROPHET** (1:21)

Moses prophesied regarding a prophet that would someday come.

(Deu 18:15), "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;"

POSITIVE:

(V. 23), “. . . ‘I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, **Make straight the way of the Lord**, as said the prophet Isaiah.’”

JOHN QUOTED ISAIAH THE PROPHET who had preached more than **seven hundred years** before John’s birth.

(Isa 40:3), “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, **Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**”

S JOHN WAS CALLED TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR GOD’S MESSIAH. That is exactly what He did.

(1) **(John 1:31-34)**, “**And I knew him not:** but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. {32} And John bare record, saying, **I saw the Spirit descending** from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. {33} **And I knew him not:** but **he that sent me** to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. {34} **And I SAW, and BARE RECORD** that this is the Son of God.”

(2) **(Mat 3:11)**, “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:”

(3) **JESUS SAID TO THE HOSTILE AUTHORITIES IN JOHN 5**
(V. 35), “He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.”

S JOHN’S PURPOSE WAS VERY CLEAR: he was to WITNESS TO JESUS so that they might believe in Jesus. John declared the glory of Jesus. **THE SAD THING IS THE AUTHORITIES DID NOT RECEIVE** John’s message. Herod eventually **ARRESTED** John and had him **BEHEADED**.

II. WITNESS #2 – JESUS’ WORKS

(V. 36), “But I have greater witness than that of John: for the **WORKS** which the Father hath given me to finish, the same **WORKS** that I do, bear **WITNESS** of me, that the Father hath sent me.”

S ONLY ONE PERSON IN ALL OF HISTORY has ever **made the claims** that Jesus made and **then provided the evidence** to back up those claims. Remember what JESUS CLAIMED?

- I. HE CLAIMED TO BE **EQUAL WITH GOD** (VV. 18)
- II. HE CLAIMED TO **DO GOD’S WILL PERFECTLY** (V. 19)
- III. HE CLAIMED TO BE **THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE** (V. 24)
- IV. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE **POWER OVER THE GRAVE** (VV. 28-29)
- V. HE CLAIMED TO BE **FINAL JUDGE OF ALL MANKIND** (V. 22)

S JESUS PROVIDED INDISPUTABLE EVIDENCE that demonstrated He was who He claimed to be. **THE EVIDENCE WAS HIS WORKS.** Consider some of His works from the Book of John.

(1) JESUS TURNED **WATER INTO WINE** while in Cana of Galilee at a wedding (John 2:9).

(2) JESUS **HEALED A LITTLE BOY** who lived in Capernaum by simply **speaking six words** to his father:
“GO THY WAY; THY SON LIVETH” (John 4:50).

The unique thing about that miracle was that Jesus was in Cana, approximately **20 miles** away from the little boy in Capernaum. **DISTANCE WAS NOT AN OBSTACLE TO JESUS.**

C **(Psa 107:20)**, “He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”

(3) JESUS **HEALED THE MAN** who had been **CRIPPLED FOR 38 YEARS** by using the simple words found in **John 5:8**:
“. . . Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.”

(4) IN JOHN 6, JESUS **FED 5000 PEOPLE** WITH **five loaves** and **two fish**. After feeding them, there were **twelve baskets** of food left over.

(5) IN JOHN 9, JESUS **HEALED A MAN** that had been **BLIND FROM BIRTH**. In that particular instance, Jesus spat on the ground and made clay with His spittle and then anointed the man's eyes. Jesus then told the man to go wash in the pool of Siloam. After doing so, the man who had been unable to see since birth, was able to see.

(6) IN JOHN 11, JESUS **RAISED LAZARUS** from the dead by speaking four words, "**Lazarus, come forth.**" Lazarus stood and came out of his tomb alive though he was wrapped in grave clothing.

(7) THE GRANDDADDY OF THEM ALL is found in **JOHN 20** when Jesus was placed in a tomb wrapped in grave clothing after having been crucified. After three days JESUS WAS **RESURRECTED FROM THE DEAD**.

(Rom 1:4), "And **declared to be** the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection** from the dead:"

THE CRUCIFIXION WAS
MAN'S VERDICT.
THE EMPTY TOMB WAS
GOD'S VERDICT.

(V. 36), "... The same **WORKS** that I do, bear **WITNESS** of me, that the Father hath sent me."

S IN MARK 4 JESUS **CALMED A RAGING STORM** ON THE SEA OF GALILEE by speaking to the storm:
(Mark 4:39), "And HE **AROSE**, and **REBUKED THE WIND**, AND SAID unto the sea, '**PEACE, BE STILL.**' And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

S Jesus' works proved He was all He had claimed to be.

- I. WITNESS #1 – **JOHN THE BAPTIST**
- II. WITNESS #2 – **JESUS' WORKS**

III. WITNESS #3 – THE FATHER

(V. 37), "And the **FATHER** himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape."

THREE INSTANCES:

S AT JESUS' BAPTISM

(Mark 1:11), "And there came a voice from heaven, saying, 'Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

S AT THE TRANSFIGURATION

(Mark 9:7), "And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, '**This is my beloved Son: hear him.**'"

(3) WHEN VISITED BY THE GREEKS

(John 12:28), "Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, '**I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.**'"

JOHN LATER WROTE:

(1 John 1:1, 3), "That which was from the beginning, which **we have HEARD**, which **we have SEEN** with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; . . . {3} That which we **have SEEN and HEARD** DECLARE WE UNTO YOU, . . ."

GOD HAD GIVEN **AMPLE AND SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE** that Jesus was approved of the heavenly Father.

- I. WITNESS #1 – **JOHN THE BAPTIST**
- II. WITNESS #2 – **JESUS' WORKS**
- III. WITNESS #3 – **THE FATHER**

IV. WITNESS #4 – THE SCRIPTURE

(V. 39), "Search the **SCRIPTURES**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

- S** PROPHECY IS ONE OF THE **STRONGEST EVIDENCES** FOR THE PROOF THAT JESUS WAS THE PROMISED MESSIAH
- S** When Jesus used the word "**scriptures**," He was referring to the

O.T. The N.T. had not been written at the time Jesus was speaking, thus He was referring to the O.T. Jesus was telling the religious authorities that the O.T. bore witness to His claims.

S Remember when **THE TWO MEN WALKED DOWN THE ROAD TO EMMAUS** and were distraught over the fact that Jesus had been crucified? Do you remember how Jesus encouraged them?

(Luke 24:25-27), "Then he said unto them, O fools, and SLOW OF HEART TO BELIEVE **all that the prophets have spoken: {26} Ought not Christ to have suffered** these things, and to enter into his glory? {27} And **beginning at MOSES and all the PROPHETS**, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

S WE ARE TOLD THE **O.T. CONTAINS 333 PROPHECIES** regarding the Lord Jesus Christ. In those 333 prophecies are **456 FACTUAL DETAILS**.

C THE BOOK TITLED:

**THE CASE FOR JESUS THE MESSIAH:
INCREDIBLE PROPHECIES THAT PROVES GOD EXISTS**
is written by: **Ankerburg, Weldon & Kaiser**.

They state **THE PROBABILITY OF JUST EIGHT** of those prophecies coming true in one person would be "**one in ten to the seventeenth power.**" Remember, there are **333 prophecies** which include **456 factual details**.

THE POSSIBILITY of all those facts coming true in one person **does not exist apart from divine intervention** and supervision.

PROPHECY IS AN ABSOLUTELY ASTONISHING TESTIMONY TO THE CLAIMS OF JESUS CHRIST.

CONSIDER TO **A FEW EXAMPLES** OF PROPHECIES THAT JESUS HAS FULFILLED:

EXAMPLE # 1

! ". . . They pierced my hands and my feet."

! "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."

! "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

S You might be inclined to say, "That sounds much like the **N.T. account of JESUS' CRUCIFIXION.**" That is certainly the case, but those exact words come from **PSALM 22** and were written by King David **1,000 years before Jesus** and **500 years before crucifixion** was even a means of capital punishment.

EXAMPLE # 2

! ". . . So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver."

S That sounds like the **N.T. account of JUDAS** betraying Jesus. Those particular words were written in **ZECHARIAH 11:12-13** and were recorded **more than 400 years** before Jesus was betrayed by Judas.

EXAMPLE # 3

! "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

S That sounds like Jesus when He refused to react with hatred toward his abusers. Those words were recorded more than **700 YEARS** before Jesus ever stood in Herod's court. They are taken from **ISAIAH 53**.

EXAMPLE # 4

S JESUS FULFILLED **ONE O.T. PROPHECY** when He healed the crippled man in John 5.

! **(Isa 35:5-6)**, "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. {6} Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert."

PROPHECY BEARS TESTIMONY that **JESUS IS WHO HE**

CLAIMED TO BE!

- I. WITNESS #1 – **JOHN THE BAPTIST**
- II. WITNESS #2 – **JESUS' WORKS**
- III. WITNESS #3 – **THE FATHER**
- IV. WITNESS #4 – **THE SCRIPTURE**

V. WITNESS #5 – MOSES

(V. 46), "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me."

S Consider a few examples where Moses wrote of Jesus.

- (1) **GENESIS 49:10** STATED THAT THE MESSIAH WOULD COME THROUGH THE TRIBE OF JUDAH
(Gen 49:10), "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until **SHILOH** come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."
- (2) **DEUTERONOMY 18:15**
(Deu 18:15), "The LORD thy **GOD WILL RAISE UP UNTO THEE A PROPHET** from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;"
(Both **PETER** and **STEPHEN** referred to Deut 18:15 as they sought to convince their listening audiences that Jesus was who He claimed to be – Acts 3:22; Acts 7:37).
- (3) **GOD TOLD MOSES TO LIFT A BRASS SERPENT UP ON A POLE IN NUMBERS 21:8**. That serpent was a type of Jesus being lifted up on the Cross (John 3:14).
- (4) **THE WHOLE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM** was a picture of Jesus.
- (5) **THE PASSOVER LAMB** was a picture of Jesus crucified. Jesus was the lamb of God that had come to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29)

JESUS PROVIDED **SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE** to the authorities that day.

- #1 – **JOHN THE BAPTIST**
- #2 – **JESUS' WORKS**
- #3 – **THE FATHER**

#4 – **THE SCRIPTURE**

#5 – **MOSES**

JESUS SPECIFICALLY STATED **THE REASON** FOR PROVIDING THOSE WITNESSES:

(V. 34), "... These things I say, that ye might be saved."

THE SAD THING IS **THE AUTHORITIES STILL DID NOT ACCEPT JESUS' CLAIMS:**

C (V. 38), "... **YE BELIEVE NOT.**"

C (V. 40), "... **YE WILL NOT COME TO ME**, that ye might have life."

C (V. 43), "... **YE RECEIVE ME NOT:** if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."

JESUS **GAVE THE REASONS THE AUTHORITIES REJECTED HIM**. What is interesting are the reasons folks rejected Jesus two thousand years ago, are still the reasons people reject Jesus today.

CONSIDER **THREE OF THE REASONS** PEOPLE REJECT JESUS:

#1. THEY REJECT GOD'S WORD

(V. 38), "And ye **have not his word** abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not."

S ONE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD'S WORD IS A GRAND INDICATOR of their attitude toward Jesus. If a person refuses to believe God's Word, they will refuse to believe Jesus.

(V. 46-47), "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. {47} But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?"

S REMEMBER WHAT ABRAHAM said to **THE RICH MAN** in hell in **LUKE 16?** The rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus back to earth to his five lost brothers to warn them not to come to that place of torment? Listen to their dialogue:

ABRAHAM SAID TO HIM:

(V. 29), "... They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them."

THE RICH MAN SAID:

(V. 30), “. . . Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.”

ABRAHAM SAID TO HIM:

(V. 31), “. . . If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”

#1. THEY REJECT GOD'S WORD

#2. THEY SEEK HONOR FROM ONE ANOTHER, RATHER THAN SEEKING HONOR FROM GOD

(V. 43-44), “I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. {44} How can ye believe, which receive **HONOR** one of another, and seek not the **HONOR** that cometh from God only?”

S They intentionally **SURROUNDED THEMSELVES WITH** folks who catered to their **pride** and **self sufficiency**. They had learned well the art of advancing their personal kingdom and agenda by patting the right people on the back.

S **JESUS DIDN'T PLAY THAT GAME**. They realized that Jesus operated on **different principles** than they were use to. Jesus talked about *giving*, rather than *getting*. Jesus spoke of *self-sacrifice*, rather than *self-advancement*. Jesus said things like:

C “Blessed are the **poor** in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

C “Blessed are they that **mourn**: for they shall be comforted.”

C “Blessed are the **meek**: for they shall inherit the earth.” (Mat 5:3-5)

S They **PERCEIVED SUCH PRINCIPLES TO BE A THREAT** to all they held dear. As a result, they rejected Him in spite of the overwhelming evidence that supported His claims.

#1. THEY REJECT GOD'S WORD

#2. THEY SEEK HONOR FROM ONE ANOTHER

#3. THEIR “LOVE” IS MISGUIDED

(V. 42), “But I know you, that **ye have not the love of God in you.**”

JOHN HAD EARLIER DESCRIBED WHAT THEY LOVED:

(John 3:19), “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **MEN LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT**, **BECAUSE** their deeds were evil.”

S Jesus exposed the root of their problem—**THEY DID NOT LOVE GOD**. When it came to a choice between **LOVING GOD** and **LOVING EVIL**, they chose their selfish ways above God.

S Because they loved *darkness* rather than *light*, they **REACTED TO THE LIGHT**. In fact, **PEOPLE DO ONE OF THREE THINGS WHEN IT COMES TO BEING EXPOSED TO GOD'S LIGHT**:

#1. THEY RUN FOR COVER

(John 3:20), “For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, **NEITHER COMETH TO THE LIGHT**, lest his deeds should be reproved.”

S Jesus put His finger on why some people refuse to listen to God's Word. They prefer their *darkness* to God's *light*. They hide from God's light.

S Perhaps you have picked up **A BOARD** from off the ground that had been laying there for some time. It is common to find several different kinds of **BUGS** under that board. Those bugs **do not appreciate** you turning the light on them. When you pick their board up, they **run as fast as** they can as they try to find darkness.

#2. THEY ATTACK THE LIGHT

(John 5:16), “And therefore did the Jews **persecute** Jesus, and sought to **slay** him, because he had done these things on the Sabbath day.”

S **SAUL**, who later became Paul, set out to destroy the light before he was saved. (Acts 9:1-2)

(Acts 9:1-2), “And Saul, yet **breathing out threatenings** and **slaughter** against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, {2} And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might **bring them bound** unto Jerusalem.”

S PERSECUTION IS the direct result of hatred of God’s light. When Jesus came to earth, they hated Him because He was *light*. He turned the light on their evil deeds and motives. As a result they sought to **EXTINGUISH** the *Light* so they could not be seen for what they were.

S The way they reacted to Jesus is the way those who walk in darkness react to all who bring God’s *light*.

C (John 15:18), “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.”

C (John 15:20), “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.”

C (2 Tim 3:12), “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

- #1. THEY **RUN FOR COVER**
- #2. THEY **ATTACK THE LIGHT**

#3. THEY RECEIVE THE LIGHT

(John 3:21), “But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”

(John 1:12), “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”

S One of the three characterizes each of our lives when it comes to being exposed to God’s light. Our lives are characterized in one of three ways:

- #1. **RUN FROM THE LIGHT**
- #2. **ATTACK THE LIGHT**
- #3. **RECEIVE THE LIGHT**

(V. 34), “. . . These things I say, **THAT YE MIGHT BE SAVED.**”

- I. WITNESS #1 – **JOHN THE BAPTIST**
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