



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to Matthew 4:18-20

Title: Expert Witnesses for Christ

Theme: Telling People about Jesus Christ

Introduction: *In a court of law, an expert witness is one who is recognized by others in their field as an expert. According to the law this expert is able to appear before a court of law and is able to justify his or her professional opinion under cross-examination.*

An expert witness for Jesus Christ is able to appear before the court of the world and is “Always ...prepared to give an answer to everyone who ask [him] for the reason for the hope that [he] has.” (1 Peter 3:15) Because of his preparedness he is able to give gentle answers out of respect, with a clear conscience, so that those who speak about him maliciously are put to shame because of his behavior. (1 Peter 3:16) Such an expert is prepared in season and out of season and he can give careful instructions on what he believes with great patience. (2 Timothy 4:2)

Proposition: *I would propose to you that all who claim to be a Christian are witnesses. Some are bad and some are good and there are those who are experts.*

Interrogative Sentences: *Just how do we become an expert in witnessing about Christ? In what ways can we tell about Jesus? Remember when Christ was lifted up on the Cross and then raised from the grave and ascended into heaven He won victory over sin and death and gave a promise of His return. All men will stand before a court, either the Judgment Seat of Christ or the White Throne Judgment. Every child of God stands before the court of those who live in this world. What does the witness of your life say?*

Why should we witness about Christ? Jesus said, “But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” (John 12:32) (Thru the Bible; The Expositors Bible Commentary;

Matthew 4:18-20, “As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed Him.” (Matthew 4:19)

Transitional Sentence: *The first step to being an expert witness for Jesus Christ is to have a heart that is willing to respond when Jesus says “Come and follow Me.” (Matthew 4:19)*

There are many expressions for “follow Me” in classical Greek. A true follower of Jesus Christ does not just hear His words and understand His life. He actually becomes a trainee in a sense, thus, striving to live out the Lord’s instructions in every part of his life. (The Expositors Bible Commentary)

“Follow” (*akoloutheo*) meaning to be a companion or expressing a like-ness of Christ. (Vines New Testament Words) It means to cleave, to be united with Him, to be in close union with and to be conformed by His continued influence. (Practical Word Studies of the New Testament) This is an individual calling involving an abiding fellowship, not only for the sake of learning as a scholar from Jesus as Teacher (Matthew 8:19), but for the salvation of ones soul. This involves having a complete trust in and obedience to Jesus Christ. This cleaving comes as the results of allowing Him to lead in every part of a Christian’s life. (John 8:12;10:4,5,27)

A disciple (*mathetes*) is a person who accepts the instructions given to him by a teacher and he makes it his rule of conduct. (The Complete Word Study of the New Testament, Spiros Zodiates) The Word implies the acceptance in mind and life of the views and practices of the teacher. Applying this to a child of God means that he accepts the views and practice of Jesus Christ and he makes the Lord’s instructions the rule and conduct of his life.

Walter B. Knight wrote: “Why Are You Different.”

All your life you are standing in the courtroom of the world. According to a court of law an expert witness is one who is seen as an expert by those in their field. Does God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit see you as an expert witness, a follower of Christ? Can you withstand the cross-examination of those who live in this world and life’s hard blows? Will you been seen as a disciple of Christ?

Transitional Sentence: *Once the child of God has been marked as a disciple of Jesus Christ he must be growing in his knowledge of Him through the written Word of God if he is going to be an expert witness.*

(2 Corinthians 5:20)

Webster tells us “An ambassador is a minister of the highest rank, employed by one prince or state at the court of another, to manage the concerns of his own dignity and the power of his sovereign.”

(1 Peter 2:11)

Being Christ's ambassador (*presbeuomen*) is a wonderful privilege and great responsibility. Christ's ambassadors are not to negotiate on any new terms nor change those truths proclaimed by God. They are not to think lightly of their mission, seek their own glory, aim at their own comfort, or depart from their instructions or mission. They are to go where they are sent, communicate the mind of the Lord Jesus, defend His honor, influenced only by the welfare of the Kingdom of God, to make Jesus' business distinguished from all others, to strive in every way to qualify themselves for their mission by prayerfully studying the Word of God, to endeavor to do their work in the best possible way and to endure personal loss and suffering for the cause of Christ. (The Pulpit Commentary)

Illustration: George Shultz

Expert witnesses for Christ never forget that their home is heaven, their allegiance to Jesus Christ and their interest is the building of His kingdom, which will endure forever.

Daniel never forgot whom he was an ambassador for.

(Daniel 6:19-20)

(Daniel 6:22)

(Daniel 6:25-28)

Rest assured that the child of God who lives his life with the heart attitude of an ambassador of Christ will have an effect on all who see his life. As he prayerfully studies the Word of God he will bear witness to all that Christ has taught him and he will be able to make disciples of others, being seen as an expert witness.

Transitional Sentence: *An expert witness for Christ is seen as a follower of Christ, an ambassador who can express to others the truths of God, thus speaking out in the best interest of the Kingdom of God and proclaims the message of reconciliation.*

(2 Corinthians 5:20)

(2 Corinthians 5:19)

(2 Corinthians 6:2)

Reconciliation" (*katallage*) comes through having Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord. This paves the way for sinful man to be brought back into fellowship with God. The word means to be changed thoroughly, to change from being God's enemy to being a friend of God. (Word Meanings in the New Testament; The Complete Word Study Dictionary; The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Outline)

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Zacchaeus

(Luke 19:1-10).

(Luke 19:8; Leviticus 6:1-5)

(Luke 18:18-25)

(Luke 18:24)

(Luke 19:10)

Tony Britt: Jacob Koshy

In closing: *In Acts chapter four we read of a time when Peter and John were in the court of the Sanhedrin. They were cross-examined and asked, “By what power or what name did you do this.” (Acts 4:7) Their answer, “...then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead...” (Acts 4:10)*

The Bible says, “When [the Sanhedrin] saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

The Holy Spirit’s call upon the Lord’s people is to be expert witnesses for Christ. Be seen as followers of Jesus Christ, ambassadors proclaiming God’s truth and preach the message of reconciliation to the courts of the world.

Let us pray!