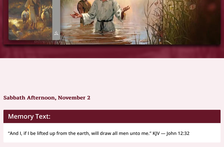
# More Testimonies about Jesus

Lesson 6, 4th Quarter November 2-8, 2024



**Sabbath Afternoon, November 2**

## Memory Text:

**"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." KJV — John 12:32**

"The love of God is manifested to the universe. The prince of this world is cast out. The accusations which Satan has brought against God are refuted. The response which he has cast upon heaven is forever vindicated. Angels as well as men are drawn to the Redeemer. 'I, if I be lifted up from the earth,' He said, 'will draw all unto Me.' John 12:32."

"Many people were round about Christ as He spoke these words, and one said, "We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth forever: and how sayest Thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man? Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goes. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." DA 626.2

"But though He had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him." They had once asked the Saviour, "What sign showest Thou then, that we may see, and believe Thee? John 6:30. Innumerable signs had been given; but they had closed their eyes and hardened their hearts. Now that the Father himself had spoken, and they could ask for no further sign, they still refused to believe. DA 626.3

"Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him: but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue." They loved the praise of men rather than the approval of God. To save themselves from reproach and shame, they denied Christ, and rejected the offer of eternal life. And how many through all the centuries since have been doing the same thing! To them all the Saviour's warning words apply: "He that loveth his life shall lose it;" "He that rejecteth Me," said Jesus, "and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12:42-48. DA 626.4

**Sunday, November 3**

## Humility of Soul: John the Baptist testifies again

Read John 3:25-36. How does John the Baptist compare himself to Jesus?

"John's disciples came to him with their grievances, saying, "Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou bearest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him." John rebuked their unbelief and jealousy, and in the spirit of prophecy he bore his last testimony concerning Jesus. His influence as the prophet of God had been greater than any other man's, until the ministry of Christ commenced. Many of the rulers and the scribes had come to the wilderness, and many, under the influence of the people, and in consequence, the popularity of John was waning. His disciples brought to him the true statement of the case, Jesus baptizeth, and all men come to him. 2SP 136.4

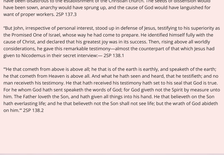
John stood in a dangerous position; had he justified the jealousy of his disciples by a word of sympathy or encouragement in their murmuring, a serious division would have been created. But the noble and unselfish spirit of the prophet shone forth in the answer he gave to his followers— 2SP 137.1

"A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease." 2SP 137.2

"Had John manifested disappointment or grief at being superseded by Jesus; had he allowed his sympathies to be aroused in his own favor, when he perceived that his power over the people was waning, he would have yielded to the temptation. But he was free from selfishness. The result would have been disastrous to the establishment of the Christian church. The seeds of dissension would have been sown, and they would have sprung up, and the cause of God would have languished for want of proper workers. 2SP 137.3

"But John, irrespective of personal interest, stood up in defense of Jesus, testifying to his superiority as the Promised One of Israel, whose way he had come to prepare. He identified himself fully with the cause of Christ, and declared that his greatest joy was in its success. Then, rising above all worldly considerations, he gave this remarkable testimony—almost the counterpart of that which Jesus had given to Nicodemus in their secret interview— 2SP 138.1

"He that cometh from above is above all; he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from Heaven is above all. And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. He hath that received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God; for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." 2SP 138.2



**Monday, November 4**

## A new understanding of the Messiah

Read John 1:32-36. What does John the Baptist say here about Jesus that the people were not expecting from the Messiah?

"The deputies from Jerusalem had demanded of John, "Why baptizest thou?" and they were awaiting his answer. Suddenly, as his glance swept over the throng, his eye kindled, his face was lighted up, his whole being was filled with deep emotion. With outstretched hands he cried, "I baptize in water: in the midst of you standeth One whom ye know not, even he that cometh after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose." Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:7; R., March 28, 1901. 1T 76.1

"The message was distinct and unequivocal; to be carried back to the Sanhedrin. The words of John could apply to no other than the long promised One. The Messiah was among them! In amazement priests and Levites looked into the face of John. Many in Israel had known of whom John had spoken. But he was not distinguishable among the throng. DA 136.3

"When at the baptism of Jesus, John pointed to Him as the Lamb of God, a new light was shed upon the prophet's words. The prophet's mind was enlightened by the words of Isaiah, "He shall bring forth judgment to the slaughter." Isaiah 53:7. During the weeks that followed, John with new interest studied the prophecy in which he had read the sacrificial lesson. He did not distinguish clearly the two advents of Christ's work—as a suffering sacrifice and a conquering king—but he saw that His coming had a deeper significance than priests or people had dreamed. When he beheld Jesus among the throng on His return from the desert, he confidently looked for Him to give the people some sign of His true character. Almost impatiently he waited to hear the Saviour declare His mission; but no word was spoken; no sign given. Jesus did not respond to the Baptist's announcement of Him, but mingled with priests and rulers, passing on unnoticed evidence of His special work, and taking no measures to bring Himself to notice." DA 136.4

"Remembering how John had repeated the prophecies concerning the Messiah, remembering the scene at the baptism of Jesus, the priests and rulers dared not say that John's baptism was from heaven. If they acknowledged John to be a prophet, as they believed him to be, how could they deny his testimony concerning Jesus? Nazareth was the Son of God? And they could not say that John's baptism was of men, because of the people, who believed John to be a prophet. So they said, 'We can not tell." CSL 274.3

**Tuesday, November 5**

## Acceptance Rejection

Read John 6:51–71. What did you say that people had trouble accepting?

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." John 6:51. "Now the rabbis exclaimed angrily, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?" They affected to understand His words in the same literal sense as did Nicodemus when he asked, "How can a man be born when he is old?" John 3:4. To some extent they comprehended the meaning of Jesus, but they were not willing to acknowledge it. By misconstruing His words, they hoped to prejudice the people against Christ. DA 387.1

Christ did not soften down His symbolical representation. He reiterated the truth in yet stronger language: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eat My flesh, and drink My blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him." DA 387.2

"The unbelieving Jews refused to see any except the most literal meaning in the Saviour's words. By the ritual law they were forbidden to taste blood, and they now construed Christ's language into a cannibalistic speech, and disputed over it among themselves. Many even of the disciples said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" DA 390.1

"The test was too great. The enthusiasm of those who had sought to take Him by force and make Him king grew cold. This discourse in the synagogue, they declared, had opened their eyes. Now they were undeceived. In their minds the words were a direct confession that He was not the Messiah, and that they had been deceived in their expectations. Disappointed, they had followed Him, hoping that He would working power; they were eager to be freed from disease and suffering, but they would not come into sympathy with His self-sacrificing life. They cared not for the mysterious spiritual kingdom of which He spoke. The instance, the selfish, was not willing to pay, for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not." The willing to pay, and therefore they were disappointed. They had expected that Jesus would exercise His power and influence to obtaining their freedom from the Romans. They had expected that He would do such Him. DA 391.3

"Their decision was never afterward reversed; for they walked no more with Jesus." DA 392.1

**Wednesday, November 6**

## The Witness of the Father

Read John 5:36–38. What does Jesus say here about the Father?

"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. 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. And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not." The witness of the Father had been given. "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him; and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 5T November 13, 1893, par. 2

Read Matthew 3:17, Matthew 17:5, Mark 1:11, and Luke 3:22 (see also 2 Pet. 1:17, 18). What does this witness of the Father mean?

"They saw with their eyes and heard with their ears what they were beyond the comprehension of man. They were "eyewitnesses of His majesty" (2 Peter 1:16), and they realized that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, to whom patriarchs and prophets had witnessed, and that He was recognized as such by the heavenly universe. DA 425.2

"While they were still gazing on the scene upon the mount, "a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him." As they beheld the cloud of glory, brighter than that which went before the tribes of Israel in the wilderness, as they heard the voice of God speak in awful majesty that caused the mountain to tremble, the disciples fell smitten to the earth. They remained prostrate, their faces hidden, till Jesus came near, and touched them, dispelling their fears with His well-known voice, "Arise, and be not afraid." Returning to lift up their eyes, they saw that the heavenly glory had passed away, the forms of Moses and Elijah had disappeared. They were upon the mount, alone with Jesus." DA 425.3

**Thursday, November 7**

## The Witness of the Crowd

When Jesus spoke to the Jews attending the Feast of Tabernacles, what was the response of many in the crowd? (See John 7:37-53.)

"Day after day he taught the people, until the last, "that great day of the feast," The morning of this day found the people assembled from the long season of festivity. Suddenly Jesus lifted up His voice, in tones that rang through the courts of the temple: DA 453.3

"If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water." The condition of the people made this appeal very forcible. They had been engaged in a continued scene of pomp and festivity, their eyes had been dazzled with light and color, and their ears regaled with the music of song and flute; but there had been nothing in all this round of ceremonies to meet the wants of the spirit, nothing to satisfy the thirst of the soul. Christ which partakes not, Jesus invited them to come and drink of the fountain of life, of that which would be in them a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life." DA 453.4

"The attention of the people was arrested. That clear, penetrating voice conveyed his words to the farthest bounds of the congregation. What effect did they have?—"Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?" Unbelief arose in many minds, because they were reasoning upon false pretenses. In their ignorance they had received hearsay, and supposed that Jesus had been born in Galilee. But he was born in Bethlehem. Some of the priests and rulers would have taken him, but they dared not lay hands on him in so public a manner. The people were not of the same mind as the priests and rulers. The latter sent officers to take Jesus, and stop that voice which was awakening so great an interest in that immense gathering. The officers came into the Saviour's presence; they heard His words, they looked upon His face, and it was as if gathered. His words spoke directly to their hearts, and they forgot their errand, and returned without Jesus. The priests and rulers asked, "Why have ye not brought him?" The answer came promptly, "Never man spake like this man." 5T July 23, 1896, par. 3

**Friday, November 8**

## Further Thought

"The Pharisees on first coming into the presence of Christ had felt all this reverence, all these misgivings, and minds and hearts were deeply moved. With almost irresistible power the conviction was forced upon them that "never man spake like this man." Had they yielded to the Spirit's influence, whose heavenly mission they had witnessed, they would have advanced to the feet of Jesus, and bathed the wrapped their robes of self-righteousness about them, and trampled down the convictions of conscience. The Pharisees answered the officers with scorn and contempt: "Are ye also deceived? Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed." Here was one who was the very foundation of the Jewish ceremonies, one who made the law, one who on Mount Sinai proclaimed the law, one who knew every phase and principle of the law. But he was unrecognized and unacknowledged by the leaders in Israel. 5T July 23, 1896, par. 5

"Nicodemus, who went to Christ by night, had received light. The lessons of Christ were as seed dropped into the heart, to spring up and bear fruit. A light had been kindled that would increase and shine brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. The seed had sprung up, and Nicodemus, one of the rulers and Pharisees, for he was chief ruler among the people, and stood high in the Sanhedrin, he said, "Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?" They answered him with bitter derision, "Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look, for out of Galilee arises no prophet." Had he not been searching the prophecies? Had he not heard Christ himself? He could have testified, with the officers sent to arrest Jesus, "Never man spake like this man." The lesson given that night to Nicodemus was for him as a light shining in a dark place until the day dawn, and the day star arise in the heart. Who were the officers sent to arrest Christ? They were the officers, who turned away their ears from hearing the truth, and were turned into fables." 5T July 23, 1896, par. 6