

The Gospel According to John

“Testifying to Christ”

John 1:19-51



John 1:19-23

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am *a voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’* as Isaiah the prophet said.”

John 1:24-29

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, and said to him, “Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them saying, “I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 1:30-34

“This is He on behalf of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’ I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.” John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. “I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’ I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

John 1:35-39

“Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?” He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they came and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

John 1:40-44

One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me."

Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter.

John 1:45-49

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.”

John 1:50-51

Jesus answered and said to him,
“Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree,
do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

And He said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you,
you will see the heavens opened and the angels
of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

Main Idea

All the people and events of John's narrative testify that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that *He* has all authority.

Testifying to Christ

The Jews



What did the Jews do?

They questioned John's identity
and authority.

John 1:19-22

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

Then they said to him, “Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us?

What do you say about yourself?”

John 1:19-22

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,

“Who are you?”

And he confessed and did not deny,

but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

Then they said to him, “Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?”

John 1:19-22

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,

“Who are you?” And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” They asked him,

“What then? **Are you Elijah?**” And he said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”
Then they said to him, “Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?”

John 1:19-22

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,

“Who are you?” And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” They asked him,

“What then? **Are you Elijah?**” And he said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

Then they said to him, “Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?”

John 1:19-22

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

Then they said to him, “**Who are you,**
so that we may give an answer to those who sent us?
What do you say about yourself?”

Their questions about his
identity were really questions
about his authority.

John 1:24-25

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

They asked him, and said to him,

“Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ,
nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

John 1:24-25

Now **they had been sent from the Pharisees.**

They asked him, and said to him,
“Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ,
nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

John 1:24-25

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.
They asked him, and said to him,

“Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ,
nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

John 1:24-25

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.
They asked him, and said to him,

“Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ,
nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

By what authority?

What did the Jews do?

They questioned John's identity and authority.

**They rejected John's authority
and message.**

John's relationship with Jewish leadership was adversarial from the beginning because he was not *from them*, so they rejected him as a zealous lunatic.

They rejected his message by rejecting the One he proclaimed!

Their rejection of the One John proclaimed...

John 1:11

**He came to His own,
and those who were His own did not receive Him.**

A brief look at their responses

John 2:18

The Jews then said to Him, “What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?”

John 5:16

For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath.

John 19:7

The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God.”

The Jews rejection of Jesus actually testified to Jesus' identity...

Matthew 21:42

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures,
*'The stone which the builders rejected,
This became the chief corner stone;
This came about from the Lord,
And it is marvelous in our eyes'?*

Testifying to Christ

The Jews

John the Baptist



What did John the Baptist do?

He clarified his own identity and authority.

John 1:19-22

And [John] confessed and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

Then they said to him, “Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us?

What do you say about yourself?”

John 1:19-22

And [John] confessed and did not deny,

but confessed, “**I am not the Christ**.” They asked him,

“What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

Then they said to him, “Who are you,
so that we may give an answer to those who sent us?
What do you say about yourself?”

John 1:19-22

And [John] confessed and did not deny,

but confessed, “**I am not the Christ.**” They asked him,

“What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “**I am not.**”

“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

Then they said to him, “Who are you,
so that we may give an answer to those who sent us?
What do you say about yourself?”

John 1:19-22

And [John] confessed and did not deny,

but confessed, “**I am not the Christ.**” They asked him,

“What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “**I am not.**”

“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “**No.**”

Then they said to him, “Who are you,
so that we may give an answer to those who sent us?
What do you say about yourself?”

John 1:19-22

And [John] confessed and did not deny,
but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” They asked him,
“What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.”
“Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”
Then they said to him, “Who are you,
so that we may give an answer to those who sent us?”

What do you say about yourself?”

John 1:23

He said, “I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’
as Isaiah the prophet said.”

I am God's herald

John 1:23

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

John 1:23

He said, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'
as Isaiah the prophet said."

Isaiah 40:3

A voice is calling,
"Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness;
Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God."

This was a claim both of identity
and of authority.

John 1:32-34

John testified saying,

“...He who sent me to baptize in water said to me...

I am a sent one

John 1:32-34

John testified saying,

“...**He who sent me** to baptize in water said to me...”

I am a prophet with a message

John 1:32-34

John testified saying,

“...**He who sent me** to baptize in water **said to me...**”

I am an authoritative witness!

John 1:32-34

John testified saying,

“...He who sent me to baptize in water said to me...

I myself have seen, and have testified
that this is the Son of God.”

What did John the Baptist do?

He clarified his own identity and authority.

He testified to Jesus' identity and authority.

Witness of His Identity *and* Authority

John 1:23

He said, “I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’
as Isaiah the prophet said.”

© 2013

Witness of His Identity *and* Authority

John 1:23

He said, “I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness,

‘*Make straight **the way of the Lord,***

as Isaiah the prophet said.”

Witness of His Identity *and* Authority

John 1:23

He said, “I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness,
*‘Make straight **the way of the Lord,***
as Isaiah the prophet said.”

Isaiah 40:3

A voice is calling,
“Clear **the way for Yahweh** in the wilderness;
Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.”

John was sent to clear the way
for the sovereign LORD Himself.

Witness of His Identity *and* Authority

John 1:26-27

John answered them saying, “I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

Witness of His Identity *and* Authority

John 1:29-30

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin
of the world! This is He on behalf of whom I said,
‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I,
for He existed before me.’”

Witness of His Identity *and* Authority

John 1:29-30

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said,

“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin

of the world! This is He on behalf of whom I said,
‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I,
for He existed before me.’”

John 1:29-30

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said,

“Behold, the Lamb of God **who takes away the sin
of the world**! This is He on behalf of whom I said,

‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I,
for He existed before me.’”

John the Baptist probably had
in mind the Warrior Lamb,
but John the Apostle came to know
Him as the Sacrificial Lamb.

Witness of His Identity *and* Authority

John 1:32-34

John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.

“I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’

I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

Witness of His Identity *and* Authority

John 1:32-34

John testified saying, "I have seen **the Spirit** descending

as a dove out of heaven, and He **remained upon Him**.

"I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'

I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God."

Witness of His Identity *and* Authority

John 1:32-34

John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.

“I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him,

**this is the One who baptizes in the
Holy Spirit.**

I myself have seen, and have testified
that this is the Son of God.”

Witness of His Identity *and* Authority

John 1:32-34

John testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him.

“I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’

I myself have seen, and have testified

that **this is the Son of God.**”

What did John the Baptist do?

He clarified his own identity and authority.

He testified to Jesus' identity and authority.

He charged people to follow Jesus.

John's Mission

John 1:31

“I did not recognize Him,
but so that He might be manifested to Israel,
I came baptizing in water.”

John's Mission

John 1:31

"I did not recognize Him,

but so **that He might be manifested to Israel,**

I came baptizing in water."

John's Charge

John 1:35-37

Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples,
and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God!”
The two disciples heard him speak,
and they followed Jesus.

John's Charge

John 1:35-37

Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples,
and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God!”

The two disciples heard him speak,
and they followed Jesus.

John's Charge

John 1:35-37

Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples,
and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God!”

**The two disciples heard him speak,
and they followed Jesus.**

John's mission was to testify to the identity and authority of Jesus and to call people to follow Him.

Testifying to Christ

The Jews

John the Baptist

The Disciples



What did the disciples do?

They listened.

They listened to John

John 1:37

The two disciples **heard [John] speak,**
and they followed Jesus.

They listened to Jesus

John 1:38-39

And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them,
“What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi
(which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?”
He said to them, “Come, and you will see.”
So they came and saw where He was staying;
and they stayed with Him that day,
for it was about the tenth hour.

They listened to Jesus

John 1:38-39

And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them,
“What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi
(which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?”

He said to them, “**Come, and you will see.**”

So they came and saw where He was staying;
and they stayed with Him that day,
for it was about the tenth hour.

They listened to Jesus

John 1:38-39

And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them,
“What do you seek?” They said to Him, “Rabbi
(which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?”
He said to them, “Come, and you will see.”

So they came and saw where He was staying;

and they stayed with Him that day,
for it was about the tenth hour.

What did the disciples do?

They listened.

They believed.

Andrew believed!

John 1:40-41

One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ)."

Andrew believed!

John 1:40-41

One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found first his own

brother Simon and said to him, "**We have found the Messiah**"
(which translated means Christ)."

Philip believed...

John 1:45-46

Philip found Nathanael and said to him,
“We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also
the Prophets wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

Philip believed...

John 1:45-46

Philip found Nathanael and said to him,

“We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also
the Prophets wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

Nathanael believed...

John 1:49

Nathanael answered Him,
“Rabbi, You are the Son of God;
You are the King of Israel.”

What did the disciples do?

They listened.

They believed.

They testified.

Andrew testified...

John 1:40-41

One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ)."

Andrew testified...

John 1:40-41

One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him,

was **Andrew**, Simon Peter's brother. He **found first his own brother Simon and said** to him, "**We have found the Messiah**"

(which translated means Christ)."

Philip testified

John 1:45-46

Philip found Nathanael and said to him,
“We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also
the Prophets wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

Nathanael said to him,
“Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”
Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

Philip testified

John 1:45-46

Philip found Nathanael and said to him,

“We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also
the Prophets wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

Nathanael said to him,

“Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”

Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

Philip testified

John 1:45-46

Philip found Nathanael and said to him,

“We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also
the Prophets wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

Nathanael said to him,

“Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”

Philip said to him, **“Come and see.”**

The disciples' mission was to testify to the identity and authority of Jesus.

We, too, have been given the mission of testifying to the identity and authority of Jesus, the Christ!

Testifying to Christ

The Jews

John the Baptist

The Disciples

Jesus



What did Jesus do?

He exerted His authority.

John 1:38-39

And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them,

“What do you seek?”

They said to Him, “Rabbi...where are You staying?”

He said to them, “Come, and you will see.”

This is a command!

John 1:38-39

And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them,
“What do you seek?”

They said to Him, “Rabbi...where are You staying?”

He said to them, “**Come**, and you will see.”

This is a declaration!

John 1:38-39

And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them,

“What do you seek?”

They said to Him, “Rabbi...where are You staying?”

He said to them, “**Come**, and **you will see.**”

John 1:42

He brought him to Jesus.
Jesus looked at him and said,
“You are Simon the son of John;
you shall be called Cephas”
(which is translated Peter).

John 1:42

He brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said,

“You are Simon the son of John;

you shall be called Cephas”

(which is translated Peter).

John 1:42

He brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said,

“You are Simon the son of John;

you shall be called Cephas”

(which is translated Peter).

What authority must one claim to have
in order to change another's name?

John 1:43

The next day [Jesus] purposed to go into Galilee,
and He found Philip.
And Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.”

This is a life altering command!

John 1:43

The next day [Jesus] purposed to go into Galilee,
and He found Philip.

And Jesus said to him, “**Follow Me.**”

This is a life altering command!

John 1:43

The next day [Jesus] purposed to go into Galilee,
and He found Philip.

And Jesus said to him, “**Follow Me.**”

What authority must one claim
to have in order to comfortably
command others to follow him?

We often speak of invitations,
but Jesus commands!

What did Jesus do?

He exerted His authority.

He promised greater clarity.

John 1:50-51

Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”

And He said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

John 1:50-51

Jesus answered and said to him, “Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe?”

You will see greater things than these.”

And He said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

John 1:50-51

Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe?

You will see greater things than these."

And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you,

**you will see the heavens opened
and the angels of God
ascending and descending on the
Son of Man."**

Concluding Questions

Have you believed that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God?

Are you testifying to His identity
and to His authority?