

June 4, 2017
John 5:30-40

. Why must our faith ultimately rest on objective testimony, not on subjective experiences or feelings? Is there a legitimate place for such experiences and feelings? If so, what?

2. Why is it important when witnessing to aim at seeing people saved rather than at winning an argument (John 5:34)? What can we learn about witnessing from Jesus' example here?

3. **John 5:39-40** *"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."*

There are some who use texts like **John 5:39-40** to belittle theological education. Do you believe that this text is doing this? If not, what is it saying?

. A skeptic scoffs to you, "I've never seen a miracle. If I saw one I'd believe, but I don't believe that they exist." How would you respond? (Hint) Relay the story of the Rich man and Lazarus, found in Luke 16:19-31.

Prayer: Father, I acknowledge that the scriptures have been a powerful witness to who Your Son was and is to me. Help me to also reflect the image of Your Son to all I come in contact with this week. I love You and desire nothing more than to be a Jesus Witness.

In Your Sons Holy Name I Pray
Amen

Highlights

June 4, 2017

John 5:30-40

- “Testimony” or “witness” was an important concept to John. He uses the noun and verb 47 times in this Gospel and 30 more times in his epistles and in Revelation
- Postmodernism argues that either there are no absolute truths, or if there are, we can’t know these truths with any degree of certainty. But that philosophy is self-refuting, because then we can’t know whether postmodernism is true or not!
- “Truth is characteristic of God, and it is only as we know God that we know truth.”
- Jesus’ aim in this defense of His deity was not to win an argument, but to win souls. He tells the Jews (5:34), “I say these things so that you may be saved.” He laments (5:40), “You are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.” When we have opportunity to bear witness, our aim should not be to win an argument, but to win the person to Christ.
- **1. The Father bears witness to Jesus through Jesus’ testimony to Himself (5:30-32).**
- **2. The Father bears witness to Jesus through John the Baptist (5:33-35).**
- **3. The Father bears witness to Jesus through Jesus’ works (5:36).**
- **4. The Father bears witness to Jesus through the Scriptures (5:37-40).**
- **5. The reason for the Father’s witness to Jesus is so that we may come to Jesus and have life (5:40).**

Message

When the
“Jesus Witnesses”
Knock on Your Door
John 5:25-30



“Testimony” or “witness” was an important concept to John. He uses the noun and verb 47 times in this Gospel and 30 more times in his epistles and in Revelation



John 5:30-40 ³⁰ I can of Myself do nothing.

As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

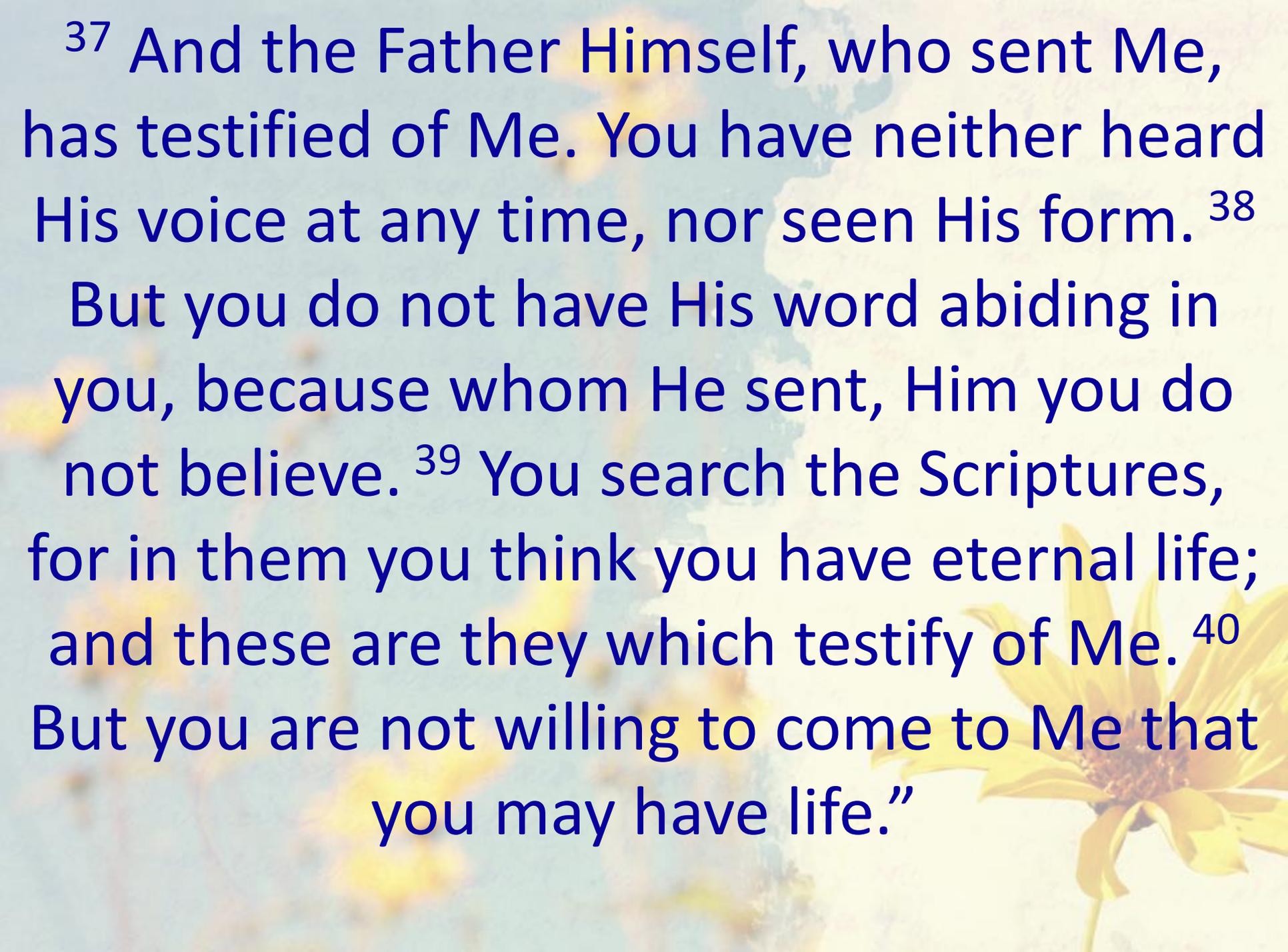
³¹ “If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. ³² There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true...



³³ You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴ Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. ³⁵ He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. ³⁶ But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

³⁷ And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. ³⁸

But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”



**There is such a thing as absolute
truth in the spiritual realm.**



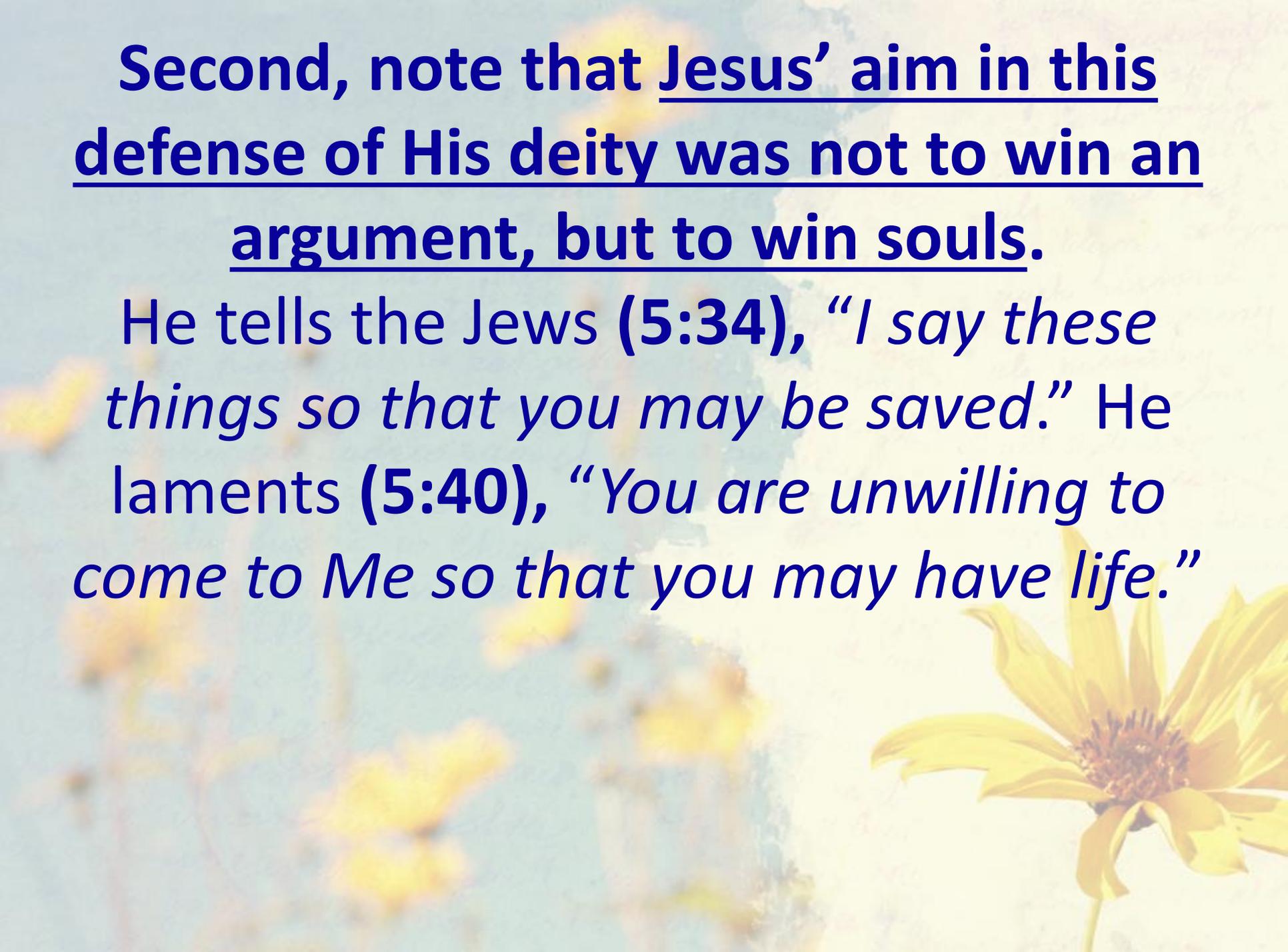
**“Truth is characteristic of God, and
it is only as we know God that we
know truth**

Leon Morris



Second, note that Jesus' aim in this defense of His deity was not to win an argument, but to win souls.

He tells the Jews (5:34), *"I say these things so that you may be saved."* He laments (5:40), *"You are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life."*



1. The Father bears witness to Jesus through Jesus' testimony to Himself (5:30-32).

John 5:30-32 *I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*

³¹ *“If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. ³² There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.”*

**A man's self-testimony depends heavily
on his character**



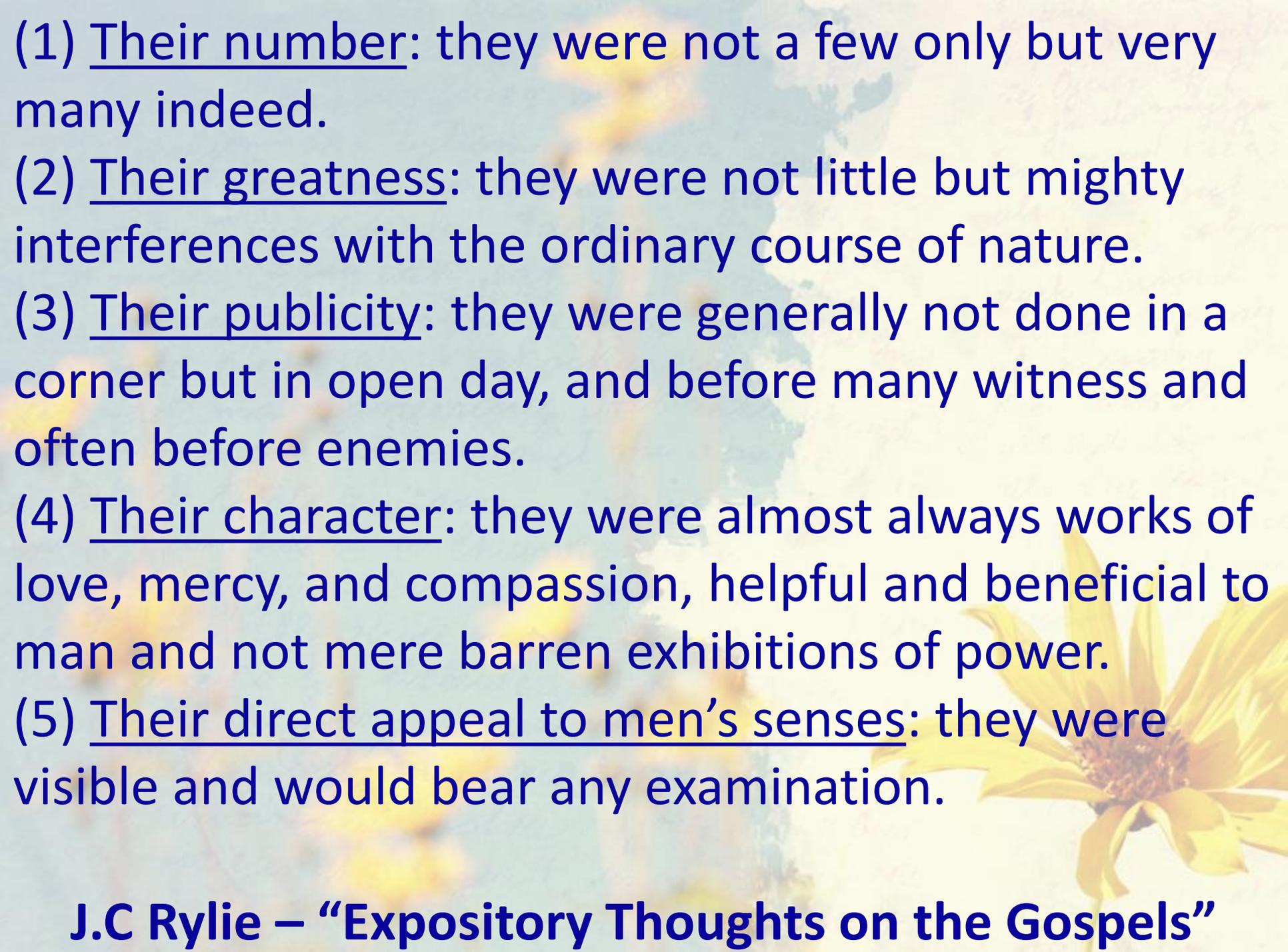
2. The Father bears witness to Jesus through John the Baptist (5:33-35).

John 5:33-35 ³³ *You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.* ³⁴ *Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.* ³⁵ *He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.”*

3. The Father bears witness to Jesus through Jesus' works (5:36).

John 5:36 ³⁶ *But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.*



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- (1) Their number: they were not a few only but very many indeed.
- (2) Their greatness: they were not little but mighty interferences with the ordinary course of nature.
- (3) Their publicity: they were generally not done in a corner but in open day, and before many witness and often before enemies.
- (4) Their character: they were almost always works of love, mercy, and compassion, helpful and beneficial to man and not mere barren exhibitions of power.
- (5) Their direct appeal to men's senses: they were visible and would bear any examination.

J.C Rylie – “Expository Thoughts on the Gospels”

4. The Father bears witness to Jesus through the Scriptures (5:37-40).

John 5:37-40 *“And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.³⁸ But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”*

**The Jews thought that in their knowledge
of Scripture they had eternal life. But
they missed Jesus!**

**The point of the entire Bible is to lead us
directly to Jesus**



5. The reason for the Father's witness to Jesus is so that we may come to Jesus and have life (5:40).

John 5:40 ⁴⁰ *“But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”*

