

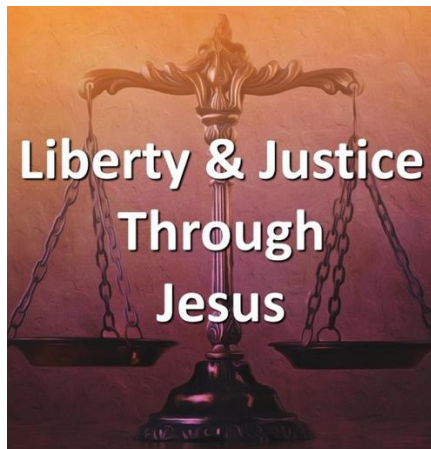
Liberty And Justice Through Jesus

2019-04-14 The Signs of Justice

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Living Way Church



The Signs of Justice

Judges 6:36-40

Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said." And it was so. When he rose early next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water. Then Gideon said to God, "Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew." And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

Video clip from "Bruce Almighty"

- Why do we seek signs from God? Is it wrong?
- We seek signs when we have doubt, worries, a lack of confidence in a decision, in our abilities and in God.

Matthew 4:7

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

- Often, we are so focused on why we want a sign that we miss the signs that are being given to us.
- The root of needing or asking for a sign is doubt.
- Adam and Eve

Genesis 3:1b (ESV)

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

- Moses

Exodus 6:30

But Moses said to the Lord, "Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips. How will Pharaoh listen to me?"

- Gideon

Judges 6:15

And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

- Thomas

John 20:24-29

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- Your doubt does not disqualify you from being used by God.
- God shows us grace and points us to Christ.

- Any signs we seek should point us to Jesus.

4 signs that point us to Jesus.

- John the Baptist

JOHN 5:33-35

You have sent [an inquiry] to John [the Baptist] and he has testified [as an eyewitness] to the truth. But the testimony I receive is not from man [a merely human witness]; but I say these things so that you may be saved [that is, have eternal life]. John was the lamp that kept on burning and shining [to show you the way], and you were willing for a while to rejoice in his light.

- The work given by the Father.

JOHN 5:36

But the testimony which I have is far greater than the testimony of John; for the works that the Father has given Me to finish—the very same works [that is, the miracles and proofs of My deity] that I am [now] doing—testify about Me, [by providing evidence] that the Father has sent Me.

- From the Father

JOHN 5:37-38

And the Father who sent Me has Himself testified about Me. You have never heard His voice nor seen His form [His majesty and greatness—what He is like]. You do not have His word (Scripture) abiding in you [actually living in your hearts and minds], because you do not believe in Him whom He has sent.

Mark 9:7

And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."

- The Scripture

JOHN 5:39-47

You search and keep on searching and examining the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and yet it is those [very Scriptures] that testify about Me; and still you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. I do not receive glory and approval from men; but I know you and recognize that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. I have come in My Father's name and with His power, and you do not receive Me [because your minds are closed]; but if another comes in his own name and with no authority or power except his own, you will receive him and give your approval to an

imposter. How can you believe [in Me], when you [seek and] receive glory and approval from one another, and yet you do not seek the glory and approval which comes from the one and only God? Do not think that I [am the One who] will accuse you before the Father. There [already] is one who accuses you: Moses, [the very one] in whom you have placed your hope [for salvation]. For if you believed and relied on [the Scriptures written by] Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me [personally]. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

Is not the gospel its own sign and wonder? Is not this a miracle of miracles, that 'God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish'? Surely that precious word, 'Whosoever will, let him come and take the water of life freely' and that solemn promise, 'Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out,' are better than signs and wonders! A truthful Savior ought to be believed. He is truth itself. Why will you ask proof of the veracity of One who cannot lie?

- Charles Spurgeon