



Scripture nugget - Testifying to Christ

“When the Advocate comes Whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, He will testify to Me. And you also testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning.” (John 15:26-27).

Numerous testimonies attested to Christ’s divinity when He walked on earth as Jesus of Nazareth. The many miracles and signs worked by Jesus attested to His divine power because these acts cannot be achieved by human power. Jesus worked a wide range of miracles that only God can perform including changing water into wine, healing the sick, the leprous and the paralyzed, calming the storm, winds and walking on water, feeding thousands with few loaves and a couple of fishes, resurrection of the dead and His own Resurrection, curing the blind and the mute, casting out evil spirits and miraculous catch of fish. Even the demons, coming into the presence of a higher power, were compelled to acknowledge Christ as the Son of God. *In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, “What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are - the Holy One of God!” (Mk 1:24).* In the Old Testament, “Holy One” is a title referring to God. By his fearful protestations, the demon, having a higher level of knowledge of the spiritual world than human beings, left those standing around no doubt that Jesus is the Son of God. At Christ’s baptism in River Jordan, the Holy Spirit testified to Christ by appearing as a dove and remaining on Him (cf. Mt 3:16), God the Father testified to Christ by speaking up and identifying Christ as His beloved Son with Whom He was well pleased (cf. Mt 3:17). John the Baptist witnessed these at the Baptism, said: *Now I have seen and testified that He is the Son of God (cf. John 1:34).*

“This is how all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35). To be an effective witness of Christ and what He stands for we need to have the conviction of faith within ourselves so that Christ’s teachings is reflected in the way we think and live our everyday lives. If we are lukewarm or indifferent to our faith, we become a detractor not a witness of Christ. Thus, we need to know and understand the divine doctrine of our Christian faith, to internalize them in our heart and not merely to provide our mental assent, and to live them in our daily life. Only when we make sincere attempts at walking in the footsteps of Christ, can we provide a credible witness to Christ. Scripture has provided many sterling examples of powerful witnesses to Christ. St John the Baptist witnessed powerfully to Christ’s teaching, on the sanctity of marriage, to King Herod and was beheaded for his rebuke of the immoral king. Mother Mary, St John the Apostle and the other women present at the foot of the Cross at Calvary when Jesus died, witnessed silently but powerfully to Christ by standing by and accompanying Him till the very end.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, flood me with Your Holy Spirit. Magnify my faith in You, love for You, wisdom and perseverance. Give me the courage of John the Baptist so that I too may have the strength to witness to the truth, no matter what the prevailing human opinion is. Open my heart to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit so that I can walk in Your footsteps even if to do so I may have to deny myself and go contrary to what the world deems good and desirable. Help me not seek the esteem of others but always be ready to live, speak and impart the truth with patience and love. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.