

## A The testimony of John the Baptist:

### ❖ The humility of the witness. John 3:25-36.

- A dispute arose between John's disciples and the Jews about the purification of baptism. The disciples' minds turned to Jesus, who also baptized as John, and whose fame was growing (Jn. 3:25-26).
- John made it clear that it is God who decides the work of each one (Jn. 3:27).
  - (1) John 3:28. **Jesus** is the Christ; **John** is sent before Him
  - (2) John 3:29. **Jesus** is the Husband; **John** He is the friend of the Husband
  - (3) John 3:30. **Jesus** must become greater; **John** must become less
  - (4) John 3:31. **Jesus** is heavenly, is above all; **John** is earthly, speaks earthly things
  - (5) John 3:32-36. **Jesus** speaks the words of God, he is filled with His Spirit, he is loved by His Father, from whom He has received everything, whoever believes in Him has eternal life; **John** is a witness whom no one believes, whoever listens to him testifies that God is true.

### ❖ The origin of the testimony. John 1:29-36.

- John identified Jesus as the one who is superior to him, and even announced his preexistence (John 1:30). Yet he repeatedly declares, "I did not know him" (John 1:31, 33). How could John know that Jesus was the expected Messiah?
- His parents had told him that his cousin was the Messiah. But John had never met Jesus. It was God Himself who told him who the Messiah was (Jn. 1:33).
- Likewise, we listen to those who speak to us about Jesus, but we can only recognize Him as our Savior through the conviction that the Holy Spirit instills in us.
- The important point is: will we accept or reject this conviction that the Spirit places in our minds?

## B The testimony of the crowd:

### ❖ "This is a hard teaching." John 6:51-71.

- After the feeding of the 5,000, the crowd believed that Jesus was the Messiah and wanted to make Him king (Jn. 6:14-15). The next day, while He was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum, He spoke to them about the bread of life, awakening in them a desire to know more (Jn. 6:32-34).
- But it seems that they did not want to hear deep spiritual truths. They wanted a king to lead them in their struggle against the Romans. They closed their minds, and refused to follow Jesus, or to accept Him as a soul-regenerating and converting Messiah (John 6:60-66).
- When Jesus was forsaken, he spoke to the 12, giving them the opportunity to leave him too, if they so desired (John 6:67). Their response reflects the feelings of all of us who have found in Jesus our Redeemer, our Liberator, our personal Savior: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. And we have believed and have come to know that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (John 6:68-69).

### ❖ "No man ever spoke like this Man!" John 7:37-53

- Like the 12, there were others who were willing to accept Jesus as the Prophet (Jn. 7:40). Some believed that he could be the Christ, however, they still had some doubts (Jn. 7:41-43).
- Everyone was fascinated by his words. Even those who had been sent by the Sanhedrin to arrest Jesus were unable to carry out the orders they had received (Jn. 7:44-46).
- Disappointed, the members of the Sanhedrin attacked the officers and called them ignorant (Jn. 7:47-49). Their argument was based on the fact that they themselves had not accepted Him. But they were wrong. At least one of them believed. And Nicodemus did not miss the opportunity to defend Jesus (Jn. 7:50-51).
- Again they failed in their argument against Nicodemus (John 7:52). At least one prophet had come from Galilee: Jonah (2 Kings 14:25). In any case, their plans to arrest Jesus were frustrated (John 7:53).

## C The testimony of the Father. John 5:36-38; 12:27-30.

### ❖ Jesus knew three things about the Father (John 5:36-37): (1) He had given Him power to do miracles; (2) He had sent Him into the world; (3) He had borne witness to Him:

- The first audible testimony of the Father was at the baptism of Jesus, at the beginning of his ministry (Mark 1:11).
- The second, to the small group who witnessed the transfiguration (Mt. 17:5). These words were deeply engraved in their minds (2P. 1:17).
- The third and last was shortly before the crucifixion, in response to Jesus' anguished request (Jn. 12:27-28).