

## "I Told You"

*Companion Paper to the Sermon Delivered at Firm Foundation Christian Church,  
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*"Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me"."*

(John 10:24-25, NKJV)

Have you ever had the experience of being asked a question over and over, even though you have already answered it plainly? Jesus understands what it is like to have that happen. In our text, the Jews are asking Jesus if He is the Christ, though He already has told them plainly enough that He is, saying: "*I am from Him (the Father), and He sent Me*", and "*I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me*", and again, "*Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM*" (John 7:29, 8:18, 8:58). So, when challenged to tell the Jews plainly whether or not He is the Christ, Jesus responds: "*I told you, and you do not believe.*" In other words, His previous testimony had already been given in language which could mean nothing other than that He was Israel's long awaited Messiah—Lord, God, and Savior. The second appeal made by the Lord in our text is that His works support His verbal testimony, attesting to its veracity. God offered up two means of proof of His identity, proof which we apprehend by faith this day. **First, Jesus' words, "*I told you.*" Second, Jesus' works, as witnesses to the truth.**

Has not Jesus Christ told us very clearly that He is the Christ, the Son of God, a term which unmistakably connotes divinity. When on trial, He was asked point blank: "*Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!*" Jesus said to him, "*It is as you said*" (Matthew 26:63-64). Can He be any clearer than this? Yet some in our day, with our text and this text, still don't understand. Some won't understand—they refuse to understand. Others have been blinded by false teaching, in which unscrupulous folks twist the obvious meaning of Christ's words. Now the crux of my argument this morning is that Jesus has in fact told you every truth that you need to know. This is true regarding the Bible as a whole, but we shall zero in on the direct quotes of Christ (2 Timothy 3:16). Now it should not be necessary, I suppose, to introduce you to the sayings of Christ. However, a reminder and fresh perspective of them is always in season. "*Most assuredly, I say to you,*

*unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*" (John 3:3). Jesus gives further clarity. *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God"* (John 3:5). Water is the physical birth. Spirit is the spiritual birth. Spiritual birth comes from believing in faith upon the only begotten Son of God, and no other way. *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live"* (John 5:24-25). Eternal life awaits, but so does the judgment. Choose wisely. You cannot say that Jesus has not told you. *"Jesus said to him* (the criminal on the cross who placed his faith in Christ), *"Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise"*" (Luke 23:43). This teaches us that at death, the believers' spirit immediately goes into heaven to be with God. Jesus has told you, so take heart! *"Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy"* (John 16:20). Are any here laden with sorrow, grief, or care? Through Christ, it shall be turned to joy in due time. Are there any here living alone, or walking the Christian road alone in your home? Take heart, for you do not bear this burden alone. Has not God *"told you? I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. I told you"* (Hebrews 13:5; John 14:18, 10:25). Will you take Jesus at His Word?

But one says, "I do not believe His word." Well then, perhaps you shall believe His works. Bear with me now. Perhaps you shall see yet see Him as God this morning. You have heard it said, "Actions speak louder than words." Let us, then, consider our text afresh. *"Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me"*" (John 10:24-25). That you may know that the Lord's words are true, consider His works. Consider, with our Jewish friends in the context of our text, His Messianic credentials. *"The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them"* (Matthew 11:5). These are things that only the Christ, the God-Man, could do. And they answer the challenge, *"If You are the Christ, tell us plainly"*, beyond a shadow of a doubt. His works shout, *"I told you"*, from the housetops.

1. The blind see. *"Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing"* (John 9:1-7).
2. The lame walk. *"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!""* (Mark 2:10-12).
3. The lepers are cleansed. *"Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed"* (Luke 17:11-14).
4. The deaf hear. *"Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak!""* (Mark 7:32-37).

5. The dead are raised up. *"Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go.""* (John 11:38-44).
6. The poor have the gospel preached to them. *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."* (Luke 4:18-19).

Now since these things were not enough for those who lived in Jesus' day, surely they will fail to enlighten many a 21<sup>st</sup> century enlightened mind. And so, now I shall make the final appeal. *"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"* (Matthew 12:40). *"Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; for He is risen, as He said"* (Matthew 28:5-6). *" For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God"* (1 Corinthians 1:22-24). *"Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me"*" (John 10:24-25). Jesus has told you that He is the Christ, the Son of God. Fill not the air with more excuses, for God has not left you with any. Will you come to God through Jesus Christ today? He bids you, "Come."