

A Witness for the Crown

The “Spiritual Adulging” Series # 3

1. Jesus commissioned His disciples to be “witnesses”

*He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **You are witnesses of these things.** I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."* Luke 24:44-49 (NIV)

2. Being faithful witnesses is our prime directive

*And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; **and you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:6-8*

3. Our witnessing commission will often involve push back

*"But before all these things (i.e. signs of the end times), they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name's sake. **"It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony.**" "So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.*

Luke 21:12-15 (NASB)

4. The early church took this commission literally

*You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are **witnesses** of this. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all **witnesses** of the fact.* Acts 3:15 & 32 (NIV)

*Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead--whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. **We are witnesses of these things**, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." Acts 5:27-32 (NIV)*

5. Specific Examples – Paul: *"Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you." Acts 26:15-16 (NIV)*

John: *What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us.*

1 John 1:1-2 (NASB)

Peter: *For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"— and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

2 Peter 1:16-18 (NASB)