

February 28th, 2021 -Kevin Olivier

Lu 16:19-31 & Jn 10:22-42 – Use Evidence in Your Apologetics

A. If salvation is dependent upon one being born-again, what use is it to give an unbeliever a proof or evidence of any sort when using apologetics? Don't they often have their minds made up?

C. When the Christian finds a disagreement between what the Bible says & what some other source says is true, always remember **Rom 3:4** “...let God be found true, though every man *be found* a liar.”

D. What do we do when there seems to be an apparent discrepancy or disagreement between 2 texts of Script? “Apparent” describes something that may *seem* true, but not necessarily so.

→ **(Lu 16)** claims a miraculous proof or evidence will not help the unbeliever.

→ In **(Jn 10)**, Jesus said, look at the evidence— my miraculous works— **“these testify of Me.”**

God calls you to use evidence in your apologetics.

I. EVIDENCE IS USELESS FOR THE SPIRITUALLY BLIND (Lu 16:19-31)

A. Rich man in torment was absolutely convinced if God used Lazarus as His resurrected messenger, the evidence of God's power would authenticate the message and his family would repent & believe. **(v30)**

1. Abraham basically said, what good will it do? It will not work. → **(v31)**

3. Why is this the case?

a. Chief priests & Pharisees truly believed Jesus performed miracles yet sought... **Jn 11:47f**

b. When Lazarus was raised from the dead, many Jews believed & yet not the chief priests.

→ Turn to → **Jn 12:9-11:**

1) Killing Jesus was not good enough “There is Lazarus; lets destroy the evidence.”

2) After Christ was resurrected, they sought to cover-up the evidence again.

c. Applying Abraham's lesson, it is doubtful the chief priests ever took Word of God to heart.

1) They loved their prestige— their place of honor more than God Himself.

2) They thought Jesus put the Jewish relationship with Rome at risk & thereby their positions of privilege & power at risk. → **Jn 19:14f** ...Pilate: **“Behold, Your King!” So they cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify Your King?” The chief priests: “We have no king but Caesar.”**

B. You may meet someone that refuses to hear & believe the evidence concerning Christ it may be because— like the chief priests & pharisees— unwilling to give up their prestige or other sinful practices.

C. Christ in His uses Abraham to teach that people who refuse to listen to special revelation as given in Word will refuse the special revelation of miracles; logically we can conclude that this is why they will even refuse the most plain general revelation— any other evidence you can present to them.

1. Those dead in trespasses & sin are unable to receive the truth necessary to be saved.

2. One must be born again— to have a regenerate mind to interpret the spiritual things of G

II. USE EVIDENCE BECAUSE GOD REMOVES BLINDNESS– HS can & does use evidence → **(Jn 10:22-42)**

A. The BIG question for the Jews in **Jn 10** is found in **(v24)** →

1. Since Jesus was the Christ, why didn't He just say so to everyone plainly.
 - a. He told His apostles plainly in private.
 - b. Early in ministry some Jews sought to make Him a king by force **(Jn6:14)**.
 - c. His calling was not to lead a military to free Jews from Roman oppression.
2. In today's text, Jesus did not tell Jewish leadership because it was not yet His time to die.
 - a. Other miraculous signs to perform ... other teaching necessary to prepare His disciples.
 - b. **v25** “... the works that I do in My F's name, these testify of Me”
→ Look at the evidence of the works I have done; they testify I am the Christ

B. In **Jn 10:22f** Jesus called God His Father numerous times & even said **(v30)** “**I & the Father are one.**”

→ This caused the Jews to pick-up stones to stone Jesus because they saw this as blasphemy

C. In Jn 10, God urges all pple to look at the evidence of who He is. **(vv35-38)**

1. Paraphrase: “Since I do supernatural works that testify about my identity; look at the evidence.”

2. During OT times God used miracles to uphold the authority & message of Moses & other prophets, but never before did a person do the signs & wonders that Christ performed.

a. His ultimate miracle has the most evidence to uphold it →turn to **1 Cor 15:3-6**

1) Most of us are very certain about place of our birth... how many witnesses?

2) More than 500 witnesses saw resurrected Christ bearing open wounds.

D. Vital reason to use evidence from Scripture & elsewhere is because we do not know who will or will Ø receive the truth. Only God knows who will be born again.

1. Just because a person rejects the truth once, it does not mean they will not accept it later.

2. God's granting regeneration & eternal life is in accordance His plan.

a. Some of us can be outright pessimistic & think we can predict another person's refusal of the gospel, therefore, we never give them an opportunity to respond 1 way or the other.

b. For those God has ordained to eternal life, God the Holy Spirit uses evidence presented by Christian apologists, archeologists, Christian scientists, evidence of changed life from ordinary people like you and me. God especially uses evidence found within the pages of His Holy Bible to convince people to come to Christ.

c. for those already saved→ helps to build-up their Christian faith.

Conclusion / Review / Application: