Introduction: From the text we find Jesus still teaching and preaching His message that sprung from His correction of the Pharisees tradition of the Sabbath. Over and over we find Jesus correcting the false traditions that had developed over centuries of ungodly leadership in Israel. Don’t misunderstand me, God loved and still loves Israel. However scripture very specifically points out how Israel constantly fell into spiritual apostasy and even idolatry; from Deuteronomy to Judges to Isaiah and Malachi just to name a few. From apostasy came the teachings of man that we commonly call tradition. Today the church still struggles with tradition; let me explain! Most everything that is done in the church has been handed down from previous generations, we call that tradition. Okay, I can go along with that as long as its foundation is sound Bible doctrine. If it is isn’t then we are dealing with the tradition of man, that means we are following a tradition that looks like one of the Pharisees. That may not sit well with some of you, but if you will allow God to work in your heart you will learn how to properly divide the teaching of man from the teaching of God. Repentance is change, and any change that brings us closer to who we are called to be in God’s word is not just good it is necessary. The want of repentance for the things revealed that are displeasing to God is one of the marks of a mature Christian. From our passage we will learn the Christian who lives repentance, obedience, humility, compassion, maturity and other characteristics of God word also has the witness of a follower. Now that we have expanded the foundation of Jesus’ teaching we see Him build on it the teaching of the importance of that witness. Jesus acknowledges that His testimony of Himself does not carry much influence among those whose heart is hardened by doubt. So, Jesus points them to the witness of a follower. That is what I want us to look at this morning. If you are saved by Grace through Faith you are a follower of Jesus. I didn’t say you practiced it, I said you were. The Bible gives us a very specific look at the Christian, we see the character, the conviction and the concern; we also see the life application of these things. What does Jesus say about the witness of a follower? First we learn…

# The witness of a follower is found in a truthful experience. V.v.31-33

## John the Baptist was repentant.

## John the Baptist was redeemed.

## John the Baptist was revealed.

As a truly born again child of God sharing the truth of his experience.

# The witness of a follower leads others to Jesus. V.34

Leading others is not pulling or pushing it is pointing.

# The witness of a follower is active and working. V.35

John the Baptist was a burning, shining beacon that could not be swayed away from the Lord Jesus Christ. The Baptist was not divine, he was human and experienced human flaws, but he always followed godly convictions.

Do our lives portray an active, working beacon that models the word of God for others to see?

Conclusion: As our musicians come and prepare a closing hymn I would like to leave you with a few closing thoughts. If you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior today you also know you are a follower of Jesus Christ. Today it is more important than ever before for the true born again Christians to stand up and let the unsaved world know they follow Jesus Christ and they stand on the word of God as inerrant and infallible. John the Baptist is an example of unwavering, uncompromising Christianity. He is an example we can learn from. In the life of John the Baptist we find faith, determination, courage and obedience, we also see struggle, suffering, and contentment all ending in victory. All of these and many more identify the life of the man or woman who follows Jesus Christ. Books have been written that document the life of born again Christians who live an unwavering faith. I don’t know your daily live, but I assure you the Lord knows it very intimately. Just as He knows mine. The proposition we leave with today can be stated in one question. “Does my life provide witness of a follower of Jesus Christ”? This question is not answered just once and then archived for the rest of our natural life. This question is answered with every breath we take, every word we utter, every thought we all, every decision we make and every action we take. There is separation between you and the Lord, isn’t there? That separation can be closed and the witness of your life made stronger. This morning as we close do you desire a stronger witness for your life, do you desire a closer family life, and do you desire a peace and contentment that passes all understanding? If you realize this or any other need in your life, the Lord is waiting and willing to receive you. Will you come as we sing?