

# **MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL**

## **SIXTH DIVISION**

### **VI. 14:1-16:8 *HOW WILL THE MESSIAH ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM?***

#### **THIRD SECTION: *THE FOUR WITNESSES***

**Mark 14:43-72**

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## VI. MARK 14:1-16:8 *HOW WILL THE MESSIAH ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM?*

THE PUBLIC – THE PASSOVER LAMB WAS CHOSEN	THE DISCIPLES - THE PASSOVER WAS CELEBRATED	THE JEWS - THE PASSOVER LAMB WAS CONDEMNED	THE ROMANS - THE PASSOVER LAMB WAS CRUCIFIED	GOD – THE PASSOVER LAMB ROSE FROM THE DEAD
<p>14:1, 2 The high priests plotted</p> <p>Priests plotted to kill Jesus People riot? Passover in 2 days</p> <p><b>DEATH</b> at the hands of the priests</p>	<p>14:17-21 The betrayer</p> <p>He was one of the 12 who dipped bread with Jesus</p> <p>The betrayer was rejected</p> <p>Judas would not <b>CELEBRATE</b> this meal again</p>	<p>14:43-50 Jesus was arrested</p> <p>Arrested by armed crowd but why did they not arrest him while he taught in the temple?</p> <p>Silent <b>WITNESSES</b></p>	<p>15:1-5 Jesus before Pilate</p> <p>Are you <b>THE KING OF THE JEWS?</b> <i>A question of identity: Who was the accused before him?</i></p> <p>He was accused of many things but gave no answer</p>	<p>15:28-32 Jesus' suffering on the cross</p> <p>“Others he saved, but himself he cannot save.” Come down from the cross and we will believe! Others cursed him! <b>COME DOWN FROM THE CROSS!</b></p>
<p>14:3-9 Jesus was anointed</p> <p>Ate with Simon Costly perfume for burial The woman was to be remembered wherever the gospel was preached in the whole world</p> <p><b>ANOINTED</b> by a woman</p>	<p>14:22-26 The New Covenant</p> <p>Bread &amp; cup was body &amp; blood of covenant shed for many</p> <p>Many beyond 12 would be received They <b>CELEBRATED</b> and one day Jesus would again <b>CELEBRATE</b> in the kingdom</p>	<p>14:51, 52 A young man fled</p> <p>He followed and was seized He fled naked, leaving behind the sheet he covered himself with</p> <p>Absent <b>WITNESSES</b></p>	<p>15:6-15 Barabbas or Jesus?</p> <p>Barabbas the murderer</p> <p>“What shall I do then with him whom you call <b>THE KING OF THE JEWS?</b>”</p> <p><i>A question of morality: Who was to be punished, the evil doer or the scapegoat?</i> Crucify him!</p>	<p>15:34-41 Jesus' death</p> <p>Darkness, noon to 3pm</p> <p>Why forsaken? Curtain of temple torn. The centurion and the women witnessed his death <b>WOULD ELIJAH BRING HIM DOWN FROM THE CROSS?</b></p>
<p>14:10,11 Judas to betray Jesus</p> <p>High priests offered money to Judas</p> <p>Judas looked for the right moment</p> <p><b>BETRAYED</b> by Judas</p>	<p>14:27-31 Warnings in the Mount of Olives</p> <p>All would fall away, Jesus would rise &amp; go to Galilee, Peter to disown 3 times Peter's response was, “We die first!”</p> <p>Disciples regrouped and received back. They would <b>CELEBRATE</b> again</p>	<p>14:53-65 The trial of Jesus</p> <p>In the house of the high priest Falsely accused of blasphemy</p> <p>Condemned to Death</p> <p>False <b>WITNESSES</b></p>	<p>15:16-20 Soldiers mocked Jesus</p> <p>They placed a robe &amp; crown of thorns on him, and worshiped in a false spirit “Hail, <b>KING OF THE JEWS!</b>”</p> <p><i>A question of worship: Who will be worshiped?</i> Some Caesars were worshiped as gods</p>	<p>15:42-47 Jesus' burial</p> <p>Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in linen and rolled a stone over his tomb carved from a rock</p> <p>Women saw burial</p> <p><b>THEY TOOK HIS BODY DOWN FROM THE CROSS</b></p>
<p>14:12-16 Preparations</p> <p>2 prepared the Passover</p> <p>Follow into the city a man with a jar Ask the owner of the room where I will eat the Passover with my disciples</p> <p><b>PREPARATIONS</b> by the disciples</p>	<p>14:32-42 Jesus prayed</p> <p>3 groups Your will! 3 prayers The body and the spirit Intimacy with Christ is not via the flesh; intimacy is via the spirit. These 4 scenes tell us that while we live in a physical universe fellowship with Christ is in the spirit.</p> <p><b>CELEBRATE</b> in the Spirit</p>	<p>14:66-72 Peter denied Jesus</p> <p>3 denials with curses The cock crowed twice in fulfillment of Jesus' word</p> <p>The (negative) <b>WITNESS</b> who denied being a witness</p>	<p>15:21-27 The crucifixion</p> <p>Crucifixion on Golgotha They divided his clothes</p> <p>Charge: <b>THE KING OF THE JEWS</b> <i>A question of authority: Who has the final word?</i></p> <p>Crucified between 2 thieves</p>	<p>16:1-8 Jesus rose!</p> <p>2 women went to the tomb</p> <p>Risen – empty tomb</p> <p>The disciples were to go to Galilee for he went before them</p> <p><b>HE WAS NOT THERE! HE HAD RISEN!</b></p>

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Corresponding PowerPoint® presentation:

211\_Mark\_PREACHERS\_Four\_Witnesses\_6th\_division\_3rd\_section\_presentation

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The outline:

You will be my witnesses

I. The silent witnesses 14:43-49

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Three characteristics

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II. The absent witnesses 14:50-52

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My Father

Paul

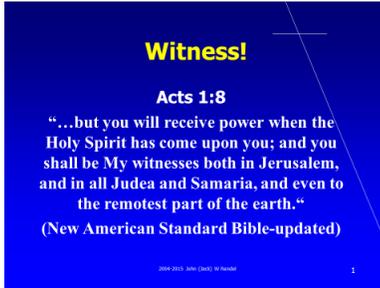
Review

Questions to aid in the study of Mark 14:43-72

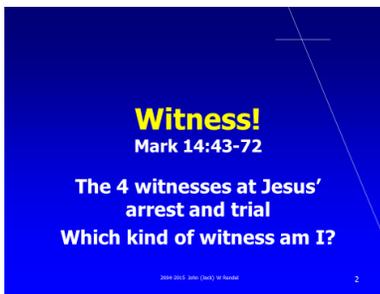
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# MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

## You will be my witnesses



Jesus told his followers they would be his witnesses in Acts 1:8, "... *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (ESV).*"



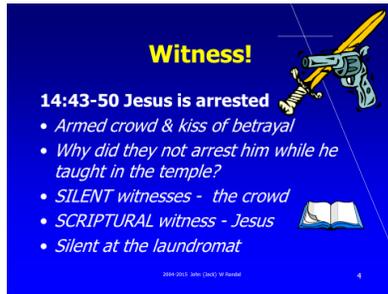
One of the main themes of this section of Mark is that of witnesses. Jesus would be arrested by the Jewish authorities. He would be put on trial. The trial would take place illegally. It took place at night; it took place in a private house; and the prisoner had neither lawyer nor witnesses. Jesus had to be his own witness. The Bible, in fact, tells us that Jesus Christ is the faithful witness (Revelation 1:5). In the four scenes that we have before us we will consider four groups of witnesses, but bad witnesses, and we will see that Jesus was the perfect witness in the midst of these four bad witnesses. These four witnesses are: 1) the silent witness, 2) the absent witness, 3) the false witnesses, and finally, 4) the denying witness.



This is how these four scenes fit into the scheme of the 6<sup>th</sup> division. In the grid that represents the 6<sup>th</sup> division our four stories about witnesses fall in the middle column. Here Jesus is in the hands of the religious authorities of his nation.

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## I. The Silent Witnesses 14:43-49



In this portion of Mark, 14:43-49, we find the “silent witnesses”. They are among the useless witnesses because they don't speak up about what they have seen and heard. They were those among the crowd who came to arrest Jesus and who had listened to him every day in the temple. Jesus challenged them with this fact. They had heard him every day in the most public of all places, the temple. Why were they coming to arrest him in this way during the night, with sticks and swords, as if he were a thief?

### Sword or Bible?

Among his own disciples was a mistaken witness who took out his sword. “...*But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear (14:47 ESV).*” This disciple was taking the same action as those who had come to arrest Jesus. This is not the way to gain either the victory, or the people, with swords of steel.

What is my testimony, a sword or the Bible? Europeans used the sword in the crusades during the Middle Ages to try to regain the Holy Land. A religion of the Middle East used the sword to conquer the lands that fell under their power. People with religious and political goals in mind have responded in the same way as that disciple of Jesus who took out his sword that night. This was not the way to establish Jesus' kingdom.

### Three Characteristics

The good witnesses, whom Jesus seeks, have at least 3 characteristics:

First, they speak of what they have seen and heard. And we, today, speak of what we have received from the witnesses who saw Jesus and recorded it. The apostles spoke and wrote of what they had seen and heard.

*19 But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard (Act 4:19-20 ESV)."*

*1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship*

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*is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete (1Jn 1:1-4 ESV).*

Second, they taught in the temple, in the church and amongst all those who were willing to listen. (Remember we are the temple of God [1 Corinthians 6:19]). “*Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching ... 14:49 ESV.*” Later Peter and John spoke to the people in the temple after healing the crippled beggar.

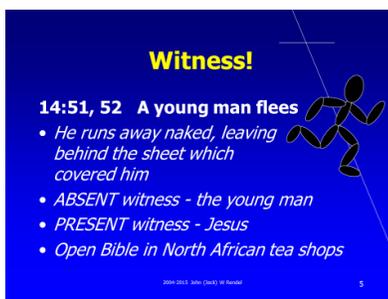
Third, they used the Scriptures, the sword of the Spirit, *Ephesians 6:17*, “*...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God ... (ESV).*” In verse 49 the text of Mark 14 says, *Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled (14:49 ESV).*” Jesus used the Scriptures. He truly was the Faithful Witness.

To be a witness we must speak. We can't be silent. When a new missionary starts his or her ministry in a foreign culture he is silenced as a witness because he doesn't know the language. During my ministry in Spain I had to learn Spanish. If you want to have a ministry in another country or amongst another people you must learn their language. Up to a point this is true even when you continue amongst your own people. Do you know the language of the people around you or is your language too religious, or of another era?

## The Scriptures

The Son of God came to this earth and became a man, speaking our language. The last words of this scene are those of Jesus, “*...but let the Scriptures be fulfilled (14:49 ESV).*” Jesus' main concern, even in the face of enormous pressure, was that God's word be fulfilled. Jesus lived and spoke the Scriptures. If you are unsure about what to say about Jesus learn what the Scriptures say about him and share what you learn with others.

## II. The absent witnesses 14:50-52



The second scene of this section, 14:50-52, tells us about disappointing witnesses, the “absent witnesses”. What did these witnesses do?

## Runaways

First, they abandoned the Lord Jesus. These men were his disciples (14:50). He was deserted by his friends and followers. They ran.

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I ran out of the Laundromat. It was the summer of 1964. I was working in the dining room of what was called "The Inn", of the Word of Life ministry, in upper New York State. The following autumn I went to the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago to study. During the first semester the new students were not allowed to work because they had to take it all slowly and calmly, and during that time at the beginning of their life in the institute, adjust to the environment. The faculty wanted us to begin by concentrating on our studies. So I spent a summer making the money for my first semester at Moody.

That morning at Word Life I had gone to the town to wash my clothes. I had gone out thinking about the importance of being a witness for the Lord. I was thinking about who I could speak to about Him. Then the lady who owned the Laundromat came to mind. It was one of the first times that I witnessed to a person alone. I was afraid, so I decided to go very early, so that she would be there alone. In that way others wouldn't hear me if it went badly.

When I arrived at the Laundromat the lady was alone and I thought, Great! First I will wash and dry the clothes. Then if my efforts to witness are a flop I'll grab my dry clothes and leave quickly! At the appointed time I approached her, opened my mouth and said something like this, "Lady, Jesus loves you, ah, ah..." and then nothing! I did not know how to continue. I whirled, scooped up my clothes, and ran out of the Laundromat!

### **The author?**

*And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him ... (14:51 ESV).* Just like the young man who followed Jesus that night, I was fleeing from the scene. In his case he left behind the sheet with which he was covered, his only clothing. I was better prepared. I had my clothes on, and my bag of washed clothes. At least I was not left naked physically, but spiritually I felt naked. Sometimes like the young man, we flee from opportunities to be faithful to the Lord and to be faithful to him as a witness. We begin well and we finish badly. It is good to know, that later, that young man of our reading in Mark, became someone who witnessed to millions through the centuries as the author of this gospel. Many commentaries agree that this gospel, we are studying, was written by that young man and that he was John Mark.

### **Quitting the Jesus team**

But as we have mentioned already it was not the last time that John Mark fled from a situation as a witness. The reader of this book will remember that John Mark went with Paul and Barnabus on the first missionary trip undertaken from Antioch of Syria. When they sailed from the Island of Cyprus and arrived at Pamphyllia, John Mark left the team and returned to Jerusalem. Further ahead when they were about to leave on the second trip Barnabus wanted to take John Mark, but Paul was against it because he had turned back on the first trip.

In this very short passage of Mark 14:50-52, we find the signature of a man that in his youth suffered the shame of quitting "the Jesus team", twice. The saving factor is that, later, even the great apostle Paul recognized that Mark had matured. He remarked, "... because he is useful to me for the ministry." Even when it takes time, God is able to help us be better witnesses. If you have problems now with being a witness, be patient. If you have a true desire to be faithful and to learn, the Lord will teach you, and use you. Don't be discouraged or defeated!

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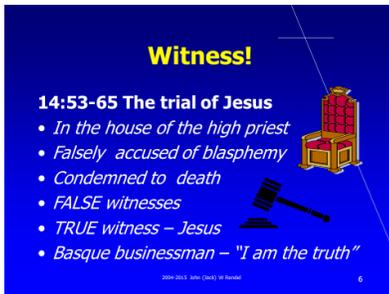
The good witnesses Jesus seeks have the following characteristic:

They follow him. Jesus did not escape. He faced both the trial and the cross that awaited him, for us. Later in the book of the Acts we see Peter, John and the other disciples following and representing Jesus even in the face of threats and beatings.

## Running from the people groups?

But there is another question to which we must respond. Are we running from Jesus' command to be witnesses to the nations? There are people groups around the world where to this day there are no witnesses. The witnesses are absent. There are no witnesses or at least very few amongst many of these groups. Who will go and be witnesses to them?

## III. The false witnesses 14:53-65



In the third scene we find the “false witness”. This witness claims to have seen what he has not seen nor heard. They speak lies. They were people whom the priests sought to give false testimony against Jesus (14:55-57).

## What the law says

But, what does the law say about false witnesses?

*15 "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established. 16 If a malicious (false) witness arises to accuse a person of wrongdoing, 17 then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who are in office in those days. 18 The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a **false witness and has accused his brother falsely, 19 then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother.** So you shall purge the evil from your midst. 20 And the rest shall hear and fear, and shall never again commit any such evil among you. 21 Your eye shall not pity. It shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot (Deuteronomy 19:15-21 ESV).*

It is obvious that the high priests did not take into account the law of their God when they condemned Jesus using false witnesses.

Another problem with false witnesses is that their testimonies do not agree (14:56). Finally, in the form of a question, the high priest said that there was no more need of witnesses. He was

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right. He was being embarrassed by these witnesses, whose testimony did not agree. This type of witness, the false witness, is of no value, not even to the one who tries to use him (14:63)!

### **But, what are good witnesses like?**

They speak the truth. Jesus is the truth according to his own words in John 14:6. We will take pains to be truthful in our testimony about Jesus. There were those who testified against Him that night when he was betrayed. As his followers, of course, we will not give false testimony about Him deliberately, as in the case of those witnesses. But, yes, we might say false things about Him if we don't know the truth about Him. I know that there are Christians who are afraid they might say something wrong about Jesus, or about God, or about the Bible when they witness on a missions trip or when they speak with family or friends.

### **They Tell What They Know**

The first thing that we should do is share what we do know. If someone asks us a difficult question for which we don't have the answer, we need to admit it. Two of the things that speak to people are sincerity and truth. Let's tell the truth about the things that we know, and about the things that we do not know.

At the same time we enjoy the great privilege of having in our possession the Bible, the Word of God. In it we have the testimony written by the very people that walked with Jesus, and who came to know him very well. A missionary in Mexico, Richard Griffin, taught me a phrase they use there. The English version might be something like this, "In order to know John Doe, you must live with him, many months in a row!" The disciples of Jesus lived, walked, learned and ministered with Him for three years. They were well able to testify about Jesus, as the elders of Israel realized when they threatened Peter and John for their public preaching. In the Book of the Acts, chapter 4 and verse 13, we are told, *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus (ESV).*

### **They agree in their witness**

Secondly, the true witnesses agree on the essential things. We agree in our testimony as believers, speaking the same thing, unanimous, loving. In the first chapter of the first letter to the Corinthians Paul rebuked that church for its divisions. If we are always disputing, arguing and disagreeing we are defeated. The witnesses the priests brought to Jesus' trial could not agree. Their testimony was a shamble.

### **The Faithful Witness**

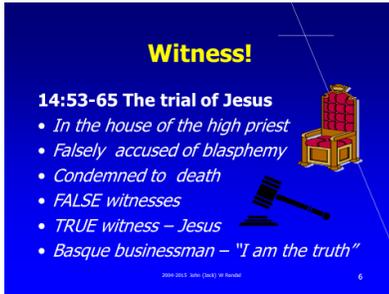
We remember that Jesus is the Faithful Witness, and that he will return in the clouds to judge all of us, just as he intimated to the high priest. The prophet Daniel saw a vision of that judgment to come.

*13 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed (Dan 7:13-14 ESV).*

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When Jesus spoke so boldly to the high priest about his own return to earth from heaven what was Jesus implying? One day Jesus would sit where Caiaphas sat, as the judge. Caiaphas would be the accused who would have to answer to Jesus. The tables would turn on the high priest. Jesus' words were a warning of things to come. Are we ready to appear before the final Judge?

## IV. The denying, or negative witness 14:66-72



In the last scene, in 14:66-72, we meet the witness who denied he was a witness. Peter denied Jesus just as Jesus had prophesied that he would. As Peter warmed himself by the fire, several people asked him if he wasn't a follower of Jesus. He denied that he was. Peter had followed Jesus for three years and on one occasion he had even declared that Jesus was the Messiah. Then he denied him.

### **Peter**

What do these negative witnesses do?

First, they say that they do not know Jesus. The rooster was faithful to the words of Jesus because he crowed just as Jesus had predicted. Peter also crowed, not for his Master but against him.

Second, when they deny they are witnesses of what they have seen and heard, their words contradict them. The people gathered around that fire that night, who asked Peter if he was not a disciple of Jesus, said, "...because you are Galilean". If we open our mouths our speech identifies us. (The men of Ephraim were not able to say Shibolet, but Siboleth, so when they said that they were not from Ephraim, the soldiers of Jephthah knew immediately that they lied. Judges 12:1-6)

What are the good witnesses like?

They are the ones who say, "I know him."

### **My Father**

They are the ones who have a personal testimony of a spiritual encounter with Jesus. At 6 years of age I came to know the Lord through my father. My father taught me about salvation in Jesus and I believed in Him. Are we reading Bible stories to our children and praying with them? We need to start early, communicating the gospel to our children and setting an example for them.

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## Paul

What was it like for the apostle Paul? His testimony was rejected in Jerusalem according to Acts 22:17-21. The Lord had told Paul that they would not receive his testimony about him. On the other hand the Lord said that Paul's testimony in Corinth would be received. (Acts 18:5-10) In verse 5 we see that Paul is "... testifying ...". In verses 9 and 10 the Lord says, "I have many people in this city."

This is the reason why we witness, because in some, better said, in many places, the Lord has a great number of people. Let's be faithful witnesses! To be a faithful witness honors the Lord, and gives opportunity for others to know the gospel and be saved!



## Review

Let's review the four kinds of witnesses we find here.

1. The silent witness - When asked or given an opportunity they don't speak up!
2. The absent witness - These are those who do not appear at the witness stand. They run from their opportunity of witness.
3. The false witness - They do not tell the truth about what they have seen and heard, or simply resort to making up a story.
4. The denying witness - This witness denies seeing or hearing. He says he is not a witness when in reality he may be the person who has seen and heard the most!

Let's learn from all these witnesses to do the opposite! Let's speak up, show up, be true, and be positive witnesses. Remember what Jesus said, "You shall be my witnesses!"

## Questions to aid in the study of Mark 14:43-72

1. Make a list of the four witnesses and think about how you can overcome the negative kind of witnessing you find here in your own life.
2. What is one of the "weapons" the Lord used in his witness that we can use? Mark 14:49 How does this weapon contrast with the weapon used by one of those there to cut off the ear of the servant of the High Priest?
3. It seems Jesus was more interested in truth than in the outcome of his trial. How can this help us in our witnessing?
4. In these stories we find two people who temporarily failed the Lord, the young man covered with a sheet and Peter. How did they fail in their witness and how are these stories a comfort to us?
5. Can you name one of the reasons why the trial of Jesus was probably not legal?

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6. How did Jesus demonstrate throughout these events surrounding his arrest and trial that he was the true and faithful witness?