

## Living Lent | Day 33

# *Actions Testify Beyond Our Words*

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*The Jews took up stones again to stone Jesus. Jesus replied, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God." Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods' —and the scripture cannot be annulled— can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's Son'? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands.*

*He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. Many came to him, and they were saying, "John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." And many believed in him there.*

**John 10:31–42 RSV**

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### **Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:**

When I was a kid, my papa would always tell me "Actions speak louder than words Boy." This would usually be his response when I would bring the car back late after hanging with my friends beyond my promised return hour, then saying "Sorry" afterwards. "Don't just say you're sorry. Change your behavior!" my mama would echo herself from the previous misdeed. Eventually after being denied access to the car, I learned my words were not enough. My parents were counting on my actions, not my apology.

My actions proved me to be who my words stated I was, or they proved me to be a

liar. Now, no one wants to be called a liar but nonetheless our actions testify for or against us without care of our feelings about it. And once we are shown the places in which our actions hold no fidelity to our words, we are forced to reconcile the two or be justly declared a liar.

Jesus's encounter with the Jews would have left him susceptible to the Law had His actions testified against His Words. He said He was the Son of God. He had to have tangible evidence of His statement, or He would be stoned. Jesus responded by stating his record. What has He done except what is written by His Father? His actions proved congruent to His Words.

We are not His because of our declaration of Christ. We are His by our fidelity to His Words. Matt 25:35 says that our attention to the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned proves our righteousness. Our religion is pure when we visit the widow and orphan (James 1:27). Absent keeping His Commandments to love our neighbors, we are liars (1John 2:4-6).

My grandma would always say "Don't let Him find you with your work undone." This is the work to which are called and to which we will give an account.

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### ***Contributor and Contributing Body of Christ***

Reverend Elijah (Bobby) Henderson has been dedicated to ministry within a local nonprofit, A Better Glynn, founded by him in June of 2020. The organization is equity driven to resolve community issues through Social Justice, Civic Engagement, and Leadership Development. Through Reverend Bobby's leadership, the organization partners with faith organizations like Community First Planning Commission and Glynn Clergy for Equity as those organizations and A Better Glynn align their agendas for a better Community in Glynn County. As a local minister/elder, he specializes in discipleship that begins with "loving one's neighbor," setting an example of leadership and engagement for the Children of Morningstar and all of us.

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*It takes a lot of everything to **create home and healing** for the foster children, our neighbors, served at Morningstar Children's Home.*

***We invite you to join others in giving \$1 per day during Lent to help support the needs of the children.***

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