

John 3.22-36

A Whiner or a Witness?

John Presents > Greater Glory of the New Covenant of Jesus

- Wine of Christianity replaces the water of Judaism
- Temple of the Body of Jesus replaces temples built by man
- Water and Spirit of Kingdom replaces heart of stone
- Jesus ‘lifted up’ to Glory replaces bronze serpent raised on pole
- Baptism of Jesus replaces baptism of John

<p>Jesus and Nicodemus 3.1-15</p>

<p>3.16-21 John’s Commentary</p>

<p>The Baptizer and his disciples 3.22-30</p>

<p>3.31-36 John’s Commentary</p>

v. 22 After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized.

MOVE from URBAN MINISTRY to Nicodemus / to VILLAGE MINISTRY

SEVERAL MONTHS of Teaching and Training His Disciples

vs. 23,25 Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized...An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. **(was this “certain Jew” Nicodemus?)**

Pre-Christian Baptism > SYMBOL of Repent & Preparation > New Covenant

AFTER Resurrection > Jesus Institutes CHRISTIAN BAPTISM > F, Son, HS

THIS Baptism > John & Jesus’ Disciples > Guarantee of Greater Things to Come

ARGUMENT > ‘Certain Jew’ > ...MY baptism is better than YOUR baptism

REPLACE With Many Things: MY _____ is better than YOUR _____

Church / Spouse / Denom. / Kids / Education / Job / Pastor / WHOLE LIFE!!

HOW DO WE RESPOND? ---- Our Text > 2 Examples of Response....

1. Test for Whiners

2. Testimony of a Witness

1. Test for Whiners

Followers of Baptist > Must have had GOOD Moments > Text reveals WORST
 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and
 training in righteousness 2 Timothy 3.16

a. Silent Treatment > Message of John's Disciples RESENTFUL & BITTER

DIFFERENCE in METHOD >> Basis of FEUD > Sought to Drive Wedge Btwn

v. 26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, *that man* who was with you on
 the other side of the Jordan > TOO UPSET to even SPEAK NAME OF JESUS

SILENT TREATMENT > Maybe if we DON'T MENTION > He'll GO AWAY

DA NILE is MORE than just a River in Africa > MANY Live in that DENIAL

Gradually the CROWDS were LEAVING JOHN and FOLLOWING JESUS

TWO Popular Preachers > Friends & Enemies > Caught Up in COMPARISON

Sometimes a Leader SUFFERS MORE from Zealous FOLLOWERS than Critics

b. Stingy with Tributes v. 26 ...the one *you* testified about...

YOU'RE the One BLOWING HIS TRUMPET > WE did not BOTHER

DIFFERENT REACTIONS TO JESUS MOVEMENT

Gamaliel: Comments on ARREST of PETER & JOHN for Healing Lame Man >
 A Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the
 people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and...addressed them: 'Men of Israel, consider
 carefully what you intend to do to these men (Peter and John). Some time ago
 Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied
 to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing.
 After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band
 of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.

Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go!
 For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But *if it is from
 God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves
 fighting against God.*" Acts 5.33-39

c. Stretching the Truth

v. 26 ...well, he is baptizing, and *everyone* is going to him."

CROWDS following JESUS GREW LARGER than Followers of John

GREATLY OFFENDED the Disciples of John > Wanted John's Prominence

TRUTHFULLY Jesus HIMSELF did NOT Baptize

...in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples

John 4.2

IF EVERYONE was going to Jesus those WHINERS would have LEFT TOO

v. 23 people were constantly coming to be baptized > BY JOHN THE BAPTIST

Common EVANGELICALISMS > Really Stretch the Truth

TWO People Believe > SEVERAL CAME TO FAITH

5 or 6 People Believe > ABOUT A DOZEN RECEIVED CHRIST

MORE than TEN > HOLY GHOST REVIVAL!

GOD'S TRUTH is not PUTTY We Can Mold to our Image > SOLID ROCK

Often press releases and book reviews cross my desk...I am perturbed by what I read. Very few speakers and writers are ordinary people. They are 'world travelers' or 'noted lecturers' who have addressed 'huge audiences.' They are always in 'great demand' and their ministries are described in such a way that they make the Apostle Paul a midget by comparison. Warren Wiersbe

2. Testimony of a Witness

John's CALM and GODLY Witness > Lesson to Whiners > Then and Now

a. Sovereignty of God > John MAY be GOOD, but he is NOT GOD

v. 27 To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven.

God's Sovereignty STANDS HIDDEN BEHIND all HUMAN CLAIMS

TRUTH that MODERN Man OFTEN IGNORES > DEFIANTLY DENIES

JESUS reminded Pontius Pilate of THIS TRUTH

You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.

John 19.11

MODERN MANIFESTATION of ANCIENT SIN > Old as Garden of Eden

Eat Forbidden Fruit > EYES WILL BE OPEN > Like God > Won't Need God!

Placing JOHN ABOVE JESUS > SIN AGAINST JOHN AND JESUS

Our GIFTS and MINISTRY Comes FROM GOD > HE MUST GET the GLORY

v. 31 The one who comes from above is above all... The one who comes from heaven is above all.

If WANT Information about a FAMILY > Best Source – FAMILY MEMBER

Learn about a CITY > Ask someone who LIVES THERE

Know about GOD > Hear the SON of GOD who Comes From HEAVEN

v. 35 The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.

God the Father > Original 'Sugar Daddy' > Given EVERYTHING to His SON

GOD RAISES UP HIS SERVANTS IN HIS TIME FOR A CERTAIN TIME

v. 24 (This was before John was put in prison.) > as Explained in SYNOPTICS

GREAT POPULARITY of John the Baptizer

WIDESPREAD SPECULATION > He was the Christ, Elijah, one of Prophets

John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. *The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem* went out to him.

Mark 1.4-5

EVEN THE KING > Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a *righteous and holy man*. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

Mark 6.20

John DID NOT EAT Forbidden FRUIT > Rejoices in RULE & PLAN of Christ

SERVANT of a SOVEREIGN GOD > Faithful throughout APPOINTED TIME

What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?
1 Corinthians 4.7

Believing in the sovereignty of God does not mean that we can be lazy, but it does mean that whatever the results of our efforts we will see God's hand in them and will not be jealous of another through whom God apparently achieves more...Any task done for God is necessarily a great work. James Boice

b. Servant of God

LINGERING POPULARITY of John > Many Long for 'Good Old Days'

EXAMPLE >> ONLY True and Faithful Translation > KING JAMES BIBLE

Paul...arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to *believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.*"
Acts 19.1-4

JOHN the APOSTLE > Lived in EPHESUS > and 1st FOLLOWED John Baptist
Great Admiration > Only time you read NAME JOHN in Book ref to BAPTIST

Passage reveals CONSISTENT FAITHFULNESS of John's Witness to Jesus
NOT HINDERED by Transfer of his Disciples who NOW FOLLOW Jesus

v. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.'

John CANNOT be X > Cannot Forgive Sins > Cannot Bring FINAL Word

JESUS is ABOVE ALL HUMAN WITNESS and SERVANTS

v. 31 the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth.

GOD uses His Servants for a SEASON > then RAISES UP Others to Serve
College Student > Preparing for Ministry > Best Friend also Ministry Student

John Svendsen > Visited & Preached in ICF several years ago

Grandfather > Famous Preacher in his Day > Louis T. Talbot

Now Dr. Talbot III > Barely Talk > Visited by Colleague Sam Sutherland

Sam 'Hey Louie, remember when we preached together?! Ready, Louie?'

John and I sat Watching > Young Kids just Beginning to Preach

Louie Talbot and Sam Sutherland > In Glory > Rejoicing with Master

John and I – both Cancer Survivors *for now...* Soon to Follow

I am the little servant of an illustrious Master.

J. Hudson Taylor

c. Satisfaction in God

IF your JOY comes from ANYTHING BUT GOD > It can be TAKEN AWAY
KING HEROD > Liked Listen to John > but Soon he HAD HEAD REMOVED

CROWDS who Followed Jesus were FICKLE and SELF-SEEKING

One Day > Want to CROWN Him KING // Another Day > Nail Him to CROSS

John's JOY was NOT BASED on MAN'S PRAISE > v. 29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.

FRIEND Bridegroom > Ancient = Best Man > Important Role Jewish Weddings

MAIN LIASON between Bride and Bridegroom > 1) Formal Intro,

2) Presided over Ceremony, 3) Guarded Bridal Chamber from Intruders

ANCIENT LAW of Near East > Best Man ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED

From Marrying the BRIDE

RISING PROMINENCE of Jesus > Upset John's Disciples > JOY to JOHN

John knew Calling JESUS the BRIDEGROOM = Declaring Jesus to be GOD

As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

Isaiah 62.5

Real joy comes in being able to say to Jesus Christ, 'Here I am, Lord, use me,' and then finding that out of His grace He is able to use you to bring others into a saving relationship to Himself.

James Boice

JOHN'S FAITHFUL WITNESS led Many to MEET THE MASTER

Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. Here he stayed and many people came to him. They said, "Though John never performed a miraculous sign, all that John said about this man was true." And in that place many believed in Jesus.

John 10.40-42

d. Standing by Grace

v. 30 He must become greater; I must become less. > GREAT LIFE MOTTO

JESUS must ADVANCE to CENTER STAGE > John now Retreats to WINGS

John's POSITION came FROM GOD and John GLADLY ACCEPTS IT

DO NOT NEED a HERALD once the KING has ARRIVED

John finds his joy, not in grudgingly conceding victory to a superior opponent, but in wholeheartedly embracing God's will, and the supremacy it assigns to Jesus.

D.A. Carson

SKEPTIC > If I behave so HUMBLY > How can I get anywhere in life?

Won't world just push me out of the way? Must I get STEPPED ON for God?

>> HUMILITY before GOD > BOLDNESS before MEN <<

Many Biblical Examples > John Fearless SERVANT of God > Bold unto Death

Meekest of Men: Moses / Thundered God's Warning to Pharaoh

Sunday School Teacher invited PASTOR to visit their SS Class

‘Children, we have a very special guest today. Who is Shepherd of our Church?’

KIDS yell Out, ‘JESUS’ / SS Teacher – RIGHT, but who is THIS MAN?

Kid – ‘HE must be the SHEEP DOG!’

If we are WILLING to be the Sheep Dog, can become an UNDER Shepherd

e. Spirit of God

Only APOSTLE FROM HEAVEN can SPEAK the VERY WORDS OF GOD

Throughout HISTORY of REDEMPTION > God gave His Spirit to Messengers
Like John > Each RECEIVED MEASURE of Spirit for their ASSIGNED Tasks

HEAVEN’S MESSENGER > is MESSIAH > Anointed One > Fullness of Spirit

v. 34 For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.

Jesus so completely says and does all that God says and does, and only what God says and does, that to believe in Jesus is to believe in God. D.A. Carson

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD - and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11.2

If we LOOK at OTHERS > Always LEADS to PRIDE

No matter how POORLY we’re DOING, Something better than ANOTHER

In THAT AREA we will BOAST > Look How MUCH BETTER I AM!!

If Keep EYES on JESUS > No Room for Boasting > INFINTELY Above US!

f. Secure in God

vs. 32,33 He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful.

DIVIDED REACTION > ‘no one accepts’ >> ‘the man who has accepted it’

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God
John 1.11-12

CERTIFIED that God is TRUE // SEAL of Roman Empire > Official Edict
OFFICIAL STAMP of God’s Name is on the BELIEVER > Living Testimony

FITTING SUMMARY of Chapter 3

v. 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

For BELIEVER > ETERNAL Life is PRESENT POSSESSION > Now in Christ
BEGINS NOW in Christ > ETERNAL, ABUNDANT LIFE > Better in Heaven

John uses WORD ‘LIFE’ 53 Times in this GOSPEL

UNBELIEVER > WRATH of GOD is ALREADY Hanging Over Your Head
ONLY TIME in GOSPEL John uses the Word ‘WRATH’ > NO NEUTRALITY
NO 3rd ALTERNATIVE > Receive Christ unto Life / Reject Him unto Wrath

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men
Romans 1.18

God’s wrath is the settled and active opposition of God’s holy nature to everything that is evil.
Leon Morris

SMALL GLIMPSE God’s Wrath Ch. 2 > Jesus CLEANSSES GOD’S TEMPLE
With PASSION & ZEAL > CLEANSE GOD’S WORLD > Remove SINNERS

Another GLIMPSE of God’s Wrath Ch. 3 > Son of Man ‘Lifted Up’ on CROSS
TERRIBLE PRICE of Sin > God’s Son must DIE to REMOVE its CURSE
Either He PERISHED FOR Your SINS OR You will PERISH IN YOUR SINS
CROSS > Awesome SERIOUSNESS of Sin > ENORMITY of its PENALTY

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. Psalm 2.12

You must HONOR Him as the SOVEREIGN SON > Embrace Him as SAVIOR

What will you say when you meet Him? *'I didn't believe you ever existed'*?
 What utter nonsense, what culpable ignorance of the evidence. *'I didn't think your life was noble enough, attractive enough'*?...Or shall the excuse simply be *'I did not bother'*? How do you think that will look to the Son of God, who became man for you, loved and died for you, rose again in order to take over your life and make a new man of you? No, all excuses will wither and wilt before the truth, the love, the self-sacrifice of Jesus. Michael Green

IF you will NOT BE HIS WITNESS > Anticipate ETERNITY of WHINING

Jesus said: "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!' There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God."

Luke 13.23-29

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John 3.22-36

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