

Best Man for Jesus

John 3:22-36

John 3:22 ¶ After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. 23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized. 24 For John was not yet cast into prison. 25 Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. 26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, *Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.*

27 John answered and said,
A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. 28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. 29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

31 He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. 32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. 33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. 34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. 35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.



Damascus

S Y R I A

Tyre

Caesarea Philippi

Beth-anath

Hazor

Seleucia

Ptolemais

Rama

Chorazin

Cana

Capernaum

Bethsaida

Sepphoris

Hippus

Golan

Gaba

Nazareth

Nain

Megiddo

Scythopolis

Caesarea

S A M A R I A

D E C A P O L I S

Aenon

Samaria

Gerasa

Apollonia

Sychar

Antipatris

Joppa

J U D E A

Phasaelis

Philadelphia

Emmaus

Jericho

Bethany

Jerusalem

Bether

Bethany

Bethlehem

Azotus

Ashkelon

Machaerus

Gaza

I D U M E A

Beer-sheba

Masada

M e d i t e r r a n e a n S e a

A H O E N I C

T R A C H O N I T I

J o r d a n S e a



John Baptist

Jesus??

Nicodemus

Nicodemus

The Setting-

Jesus and disciples go to the “land of Judea”

Conversation with Nicodemus in Jerusalem

They went out into the countryside of Judea

Disciples are baptizing for Jesus - 4:2

“Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples”

John Baptist also baptizing in Aenon

The Question-

v.25- between John's disciples and the Jews

- about purifying

 - John's baptism vs. purifications in OT law?

 - John's baptism vs. Jesus' baptism?

v.26- questioning John about Jesus' baptism

- identifies Jesus,

 - “the One who was with you beyond Jordan”

 - “to whom you bare witness”

- notes Jesus' rising popularity

 - He is baptizing

 - “all men come to Him”

John's response-

- v.27 – purpose in ministry is given by God
- equipping for ministry is done by God
- understanding God's purpose is a gift from God

A. Restates purpose of his own ministry

“you heard me say this before”

“I am NOT the Christ”

John was sent before the Messiah,
to “prepare the way”

Illustration- Groom and friend of the groom

John presents himself as the friend (best man?) of
Jesus as the Groom

The Groom has greater joy and honor

He is the one getting married

He has the bride

His friend (“best man”/assistant) is glad for the groom

He is standing by ready to serve

John is the friend of the Groom (Jesus), Who is coming
for His bride (the church)

John’s joy is:

- in hearing Jesus’ voice

- fulfilled in knowing that He is here

- heightened by the joy of the Groom

John’s closing statement about himself –v.30

“He must increase, I must decrease”

- clearly understands roles of ministry

- willingly makes way for Christ’s ministry

John's response-

A. Restates purpose of his own ministry

B. Reaffirms Who Jesus Is – v31-36

1. From above

2. Above all

3. Sent by God

4. Speaks the words of God

5. Has the fullness of God's Spirit

6. Loved by the Father

7. Given authority over all things

He is the pivotal point in eternal destiny

Col.- "...Christ, Who Is our Life..."

Applications-

All that I have, I have been given.

All that I do, is for my Master.

Those things that please the Groom, are pleasing to me.

-The bride of Christ is the Church

-Christ is looking for a pure and spotless bride

My life is about “increasing” God’s kingdom

Who we are and what we do?

Is the condition of my heart such that God’s kingdom is increased *in and through* me?

-Resolving personal struggles

Yielding not defending

Confessing not justifying

-Seeking spiritual understanding and growth

Applications-

A proper perspective of Jesus and the believer-

Jesus is:

From above

Above all - elevated in honor, rank, and power

Given the Holy Spirit without measure

Loved by the Father

The catalyst of eternal life

I am:

From below

Being transformed

Under His authority

Representing His Kingdom

Humbled by the awe of my Master!

“I decrease, He increases”

