

## GOD the SON - "Move Aside for Jesus!" John 3:22-36

**NKJV**- "After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. For John had not yet been thrown into prison. Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!" John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease. He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

### Some of the amazing benefits of childhood:

- Decisions were made by saying, 'eeni-meeni-miney-mo.'
- Mistakes were quickly corrected by simply shouting, 'do-over!'
- Money issues were easily handled by the banker in Monopoly.
- It wasn't odd to have two or three best friends at the same time.
- The worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was cooties.
- Scrapes and bruises were lovingly kissed by mom, and made all better."

### I. The **CONFRONTATION** of Jews.(v.22-26)

### II. The **HUMILIATION** of John. (v.27-30)

### III. The **EXHALTATION** of Jesus. (v.31-36)

I. **The CONFRONTATION of Jews.**(v.22-26) - "After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. For John had not yet been thrown into prison. Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification."

- "...there arose a dispute.." - God's kids can sometimes disagree...
  - The Church of Jesus is a **family**... we don't always get along!!
    - **Biblical examples:** Abraham & Lot, Jacob & Laban, Joseph & his brothers, Peter & Paul, Paul & Barnabas ( Comical? Carnal? Corrective?)
      - "God reserves the right to use people that disagree with you!" - **Dr. Bob Cook, YFC**
      - "If you find two people that agree on everything, one of them is not thinking." - **Dr. Walter Martin**
    - However, there definitely **IS** a time for Christians to **FIGHT** for the Truth of God. Sometimes we need to **passionately disagree** and oppose false teaching seeks to sabotage the very fabric of the Christian truth.
    - **Jude 3(The Message):** "I have to write insisting—begging!—that you fight with everything you have in you for this faith entrusted to us as a gift to guard and cherish."
    - **Non-essentials vs. Essentials ?!?**

"And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!"

- Jesus is gaining popularity & John's disciples struggle with this... **Jealousy??** v.27
  - Phil 1:15-17(NLT): "It's true that **some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry**. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the

Good News. **Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely..**"

- **US Battleship:** Please change your course immediately, 0.5 degrees to the south, to avoid a collision!!
- **Response:** Recommend you divert **your** course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision!!
- **US Battleship:** I am the Captain of a battleship. I say again, Change **your** course!!
- **Response:** No. I say again, you change **YOUR** course!!
- **US Battleship:** THIS IS THE BATTLESHIP USS "INVINCIBLE", WE ARE A LARGE WARSHIP OF THE US NAVY. CHANGE **YOUR** COURSE NOW!!
- **Response:** This is a lighthouse. It's **your** call.
- PRIDE is one of the most destructive and toxic things in the life of a Christian!
  - **"PRIDE must be swiftly dealt with, when detected in your heart... for this is the sin that tuned an ANGEL into a DEVIL and DECEIVER."**
  - Pride is the first sin recorded in the pages of scripture - Isa 14; Eze 28
  - What exactly is this thing called "pride"??
    - **Psalm 73:8(NLT):** "They scoff and speak only evil; in their **pride** they seek to crush others."
    - **Psalm 101:5(NLT):** "I will not tolerate people who slander their neighbors. I will not endure conceit and **pride**."
    - **Proverbs 11:2(NLT):** "**Pride** leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."
    - **Proverbs 29:23(NLT):** "**Pride** ends in humiliation, while humility brings honor."

**II. The HUMILIATION of John.** (v.27-30) - "John answered and said, "**A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.'** He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but **the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.**"

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- When someone is *successful*, God gave it to them!!
- If you are being blessed, you can't brag!!
  - **1 Cor 4:7(NLT):** "What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift?"
- Rejoice in another's accomplishments.. Be happy just to be a part of the process!!

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- **According to William Barclay, the friend of the bridegroom had one special duty and that was to guard the bridal chamber and to let no false lover in. He would only open the door when in the dark he heard the bridegroom's voice and recognized it. When he did, he was glad and he went his way rejoicing for his task was complete.**
  - **What John the Baptist is saying is, "I'm the best man at the wedding and I'm so happy that my friend, my cousin, who is also my Lord, is getting the bride."**

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

- **John 3:30 is the Great Antidote for SELF-FOCUSED Living!!** There's so much of that today. "What about me? What about my needs?" And see, John's disciples were trying to make it all about John. "John, Jesus and His gang--they're getting more people!" And John is saying, "Would you quit making this about me? This is not about me. This is about Him. More of Him, less of me." It's a beautiful, beautiful solution.
  - **William Carey, that great missionary to India was dying, he turned to his friend, he said, "When I'm gone, don't speak about William Carey. Speak about William Carey's Savior."**

- o **John's statement is also a statement of necessity.** *He must increase. This has to happen, boys, because I'm here simply as the herald. My job, my role, was the forerunner of the Messiah. I, I pointed the way, but now... HE is here. And now that the King has come, the servant should be fade away. It is wrong to lift up, and focus on a servant, when the KING Himself is here! Therefore, Jesus **must** increase, I **must** decrease!! HE must become greater and greater in your eyes, and I must simply fade away!!*

**III. The EXHALTATION of Jesus.** (v.31-36) - *“He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*

### **“Once and For All”** (by Lauren Daigle)

God I give You all I can today  
 These scattered ashes that I hid away  
 I lay them all at Your feet  
 Oh Help me to lay it down  
 Oh Lord I lay it down  
 Oh let this be where I die  
 My lord with You crucified  
 Be lifted high as my Kingdom's fall  
 Once and for all, once and for all  
 Oh Lord I lay it down  
 Oh Lord I lay it down  
 Help me to lay it down  
 Oh Lord I lay it down  
 Oh let this be where I die  
 My Lord with You crucified  
 Be lifted high as my Kingdom's fall  
 Once and for all  
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