

John 3:22-36

John the Baptist Exalts Christ

Verse 22

Land of Judea – The Judean Countryside.

His disciples – This could have included the 12 and others also.

Baptizing – This the only record that Jesus was involved in a baptizing ministry. John clarifies in 4:2 that Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples.

Verse 23

Aenon – Believed to be around 15 miles south of the Sea of Galilee.

John the Baptist continued his ministry of baptizing and preaching repentance.

Verse 24

For John had not yet been thrown into prison – The Synoptics viewed the beginning of Jesus' ministry as starting with John the Baptist's imprisonment. John begins with Jesus' earlier Judean ministry. For a time John and Jesus worked in similar ministries.

Verse 25

There arose a discussion... With a Jew... About purification...

The question was the relation of John's baptism to other ceremonial washings.

Verse 26

...all are coming to Him –

Amazingly, there was jealousy on the part of John the Baptist's disciples over the fact that Jesus was now drawing larger crowds than John the Baptist.

Verse 27

A man can receive nothing, unless it has been given him from heaven.

John demonstrated the proper attitude about ministry. God is the one who blesses! We are to be faithful to what He calls us to do and should not compare ourselves to others!

Verses 28

I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him-

John understood his ministry role and reminded his disciples that it was not about him, but Jesus.

"...neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth."

1 Corinthians 3:7

Verse 29

The bridegroom = Jesus; *The bridegroom's friend* = John

The friend acted on behalf of the bridegroom and made the preliminary arrangements for the ceremony. The friend rejoiced when the bridegroom appeared and took center stage.

Verse 30

He must increase, but I must decrease.

Our purpose and joy comes from submission to God's will and the exaltation of Jesus... not prominence in His service!

Often, the hardest thing for a minister to understand is when to step to the background.

Verses 31-33 The preeminence of Jesus

Jesus is above all... He comes from heaven.

Human ministers are earthly and can only speak of earthly things unless they accept the witness of Christ.

What He has seen and heard, of that He bears witness

Mankind typically rejected Christ's witness. However, some do receive His witness and therefore prove that they believe the Father. To disbelieve Jesus is to disbelieve God.

"...the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son." 1 John 5:10

Verse 34

...speaks the words of God – Jesus was the perfect representation of the Father.

"...he who has seen Me has seen the Father..." John 14:9

...the Spirit without measure – All forerunners to Jesus received the Spirit in limited measure. Only Jesus received the Spirit without measure!

Verse 35

...all things into His hand – Because of love, God the Father has given all authority to God the Son. Because of love, God the Son is in perfect submission to God the Father.

Verse 36

Only two alternatives exist:

1. Believe in the Son, Result – Eternal Life!
2. Reject the Son, Result – The Wrath of God!

This is the only reference to God's wrath in the Gospel of John.

Obey – John spoke of unbelief as disobedience because when someone rejects Christ that unbelief becomes disobedience. This word is translated as *disbelief* in Acts 14:2