

**Pastor Jim Jackson, 6/29/25**  
***Days With Jesus, Day 7—John Goes to the Back of the Line***  
**John 3:22-36**

**John the Baptist's disciples get JEALOUS of Jesus**

John the Baptist was 6 months older than Jesus and was his cousin. He began his ministry in southern Israel about 6 months before Jesus started his ministry. As John was called to be the forerunner of the Messiah, thousands were drawn to his powerful ministry (Mal. 3:1; John 1:23). *God's power on God's man produces God's blessing on God's people!* Having a large, influential ministry, John's disciples were concerned that as Jesus was teaching and baptizing, people were being drawn to him. Jealousy is the ugliest of all emotions as it's a combination of lust for what isn't yours, discontentedness with what you have, pride that you're better suited for something than someone else, and lack of faith that God doesn't have your best in mind. Jealousy will rob all the joy and satisfaction out of life. *The antidote to jealousy for what you don't have is a daily shot of thankfulness to God for what you do* (Col. 3:17)!

**John claims to be the BEST MAN not the groom**

When John hears his disciples' concern, he tells them Jesus is the focus and calls himself the *shoshben*. In first-century Jewish weddings, the *shoshben*, or 'friend of the bridegroom' is like the best man with more responsibility. He was normally a male relative or friend who'd publicly announce the wedding to family, friends, and acquaintances. *Believers should care about going public about God!* As a liaison between the bride-to-be and the groom he would protect the bride's chastity through the betrothal period until the wedding day. And if a dispute arose, he could provide proof he did everything to protect their future. *Believers should care about their physical and spiritual purity for God!* Like a wedding coordinator, he presided over the seven-day wedding festivities. And on the day of consummation, he waited outside the bridal chamber to listen for the voice of the husband in joyfully seeing his wife. John humbly makes the 'Disciple's Profession'—that Jesus' fame must increase in the world and his must decrease. Ironically, by promoting Jesus, John became one of the most popular people in history! *Lift up Christ and Christ will lift you up* (Matt. 23:12; 1 Pet. 5:6)! As believers are the 'bride' of Christ and Jesus is the groom, John's job was to prepare people's spiritual readiness for Jesus (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7, 8). *Godly pastors call God's people to be godly for God's glory!*