

John 3:22-30

Christ First

John 3:22 through John 3:30 (NIV)

²²After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. ²³Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. ²⁴(This was before John was put in prison.) ²⁵An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. ²⁶They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."
²⁷To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' ²⁹The 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. ³⁰He must become greater; I must become less.

Gene Getz Video

Hyperlink

<http://www2.bhpublishinggroup.com/QR/GetzBible/1111/>

Lesson Principle

We are never to elevate any spiritual leader to the place where we are honoring another person above the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lesson Reflection

How can we honor and respect those who lead us and yet always keep the focus on the Lord Jesus Christ?

Video Recap

Unfortunately, but predictably, the disciples of John the Baptist did elevate John above Jesus.

- Some of them failed to transfer their trust and loyalty to Jesus Christ.
 - John quickly clarified his role in preparing people for Christ's first coming.

- Perhaps one of the greatest personal commitments ever recorded in Scripture came from the lips of this wilderness preacher.
- Referring to Jesus, he declared,
 - *“He must increase, but I must decrease”* (v. 30).

Every successful spiritual leader faces the temptation to allow followers to esteem them more highly than they should, and

- Many Christians are tempted to be followers of leaders more than they are followers of Christ.
 - Paul had to address this problem in the Corinthian church.
 - As new believers, the Corinthians became men followers rather than Christ-followers, and
 - Paul exhorted them to avoid this kind of sinful and divisive behavior.

Verse-By-Verse

~~Dr. Gene Getz Video~~

Disciple Study Bible (4)

Verse Cross Reference

Comments and Questions

Disciple Study Bible

DSB 3:22-26 ORDINANCES, Baptism by Jesus

Only John's Gospel gives an account of Jesus' ministry in Judea, paralleling the ministry of John the Baptist.

- Jesus' ministry brought two areas of conflict:
 - With the Jews who wanted to interpret John's baptism as some kind of ceremonial washing like they practiced and
 - With John's disciples who were jealous of the response to Jesus.
- John was true to his witness in 1:26-34, rejoicing that Christ the "bridegroom" had come and must become greater.
 - John's baptism was very different from the Levitical rituals of washing.
 - It was the sign of the Messianic Age, which
 - Jesus was bringing to fulfillment in His ministry.

DSB 3:27-30 JESUS CHRIST, John

John promoted Jesus

- At the cost of
 - His own popularity.

DSB 3:29 SALVATION, Joy

The coming of Christ makes

- The joy of God's people complete.

DSB 3:30 EVANGELISM, Holy Life

The power of a ***holy life*** is vital to effective evangelization.

- Humility is a strong characteristic of such a life.
 - John exemplified that quality.
 - He understood his position in the light of the person and ministry of Jesus.
 - Humility is an honest evaluation of oneself...
 - In the light of Christ.

Verse Cross Reference

John 3:22-24 (HCSB)

²² After this, Jesus and His disciples went to the Judean countryside, where He spent time with them and baptized. ²³ John [[Mk 1:4](#)] also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water there. People were coming and being baptized, ²⁴ since John had not yet been thrown into prison. [[Mk 1:14](#)]

Mark 1:4 (MSG)

John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins.

Mark 1:14 (MSG)

After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God:

John 3:25 (HCSB)

Then a dispute arose between John's disciples [[Mt 9:14](#)] and a Jew [*some mss read and the Jews*] about purification. [Lv 13-14; [Heb 1:3](#)]

Matthew 9:14 (MSG)

A little later John's followers approached, asking, "Why is it that we and the Pharisees rigorously discipline body and spirit by fasting, but your followers don't?"

Hebrews 1:3 (MSG)

This Son perfectly mirrors God, and is stamped with God's nature. He holds everything together by what he says—powerful words! After he finished the sacrifice for sins, the Son took his honored place high in the heavens right alongside God,

John 3:26 (HCSB)

So they came to John and told him, “Rabbi, [[Jn 11:8](#)] the One you testified about, and who was with you across the Jordan, [[Lk 3:3](#)] is baptizing—and everyone is flocking to Him.” [[Mk 1:45](#)]

John 11:8 (MSG)

They said, "Rabbi, you can't do that. The Jews are out to kill you, and you're going back?"

Luke 3:3 (MSG)

He went all through the country around the Jordan River preaching a baptism of life-change leading to forgiveness of sins,

Mark 1:45 (MSG)

But as soon as the man was out of earshot, he told everyone he met what had happened, spreading the news all over town. So Jesus kept to out-of-the-way places, no longer able to move freely in and out of the city. But people found him, and came from all over.

John 3:27-28 (HCSB)

²⁷ John responded, “No one can receive a single thing unless it’s given to him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah, [[Mt 1:17](#); [Eph 5:2](#)] but I’ve been sent ahead of Him.’ [[Lk 1:17](#)]

Matthew 1:17 (MSG)

There were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, another fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and yet another fourteen from the Babylonian exile to Christ.

Ephesians 5:2 (MSG)

Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

Luke 1:17 (MSG)

He will herald God's arrival in the style and strength of Elijah, soften the hearts of parents to children, and kindle devout understanding among hardened skeptics—he'll get the people ready for God."

John 3:29-30 (HCSB)

²⁹ He who has the bride [[Rev 21:2](#)] is the groom. But the groom's friend, who stands by and listens for him, rejoices greatly [*Lit with joy rejoices*] at the groom's voice. So this joy [[Jn 15:11](#)] of mine is complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

Revelation 21:2 (MSG)

I saw Holy Jerusalem, new-created, descending resplendent out of Heaven, as ready for God as a bride for her husband.

John 15:11 (MSG)

"I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature.

Questions and Comments

With time remaining, let's discuss:

How can we honor and respect those who lead us and yet always keep the focus on the Lord Jesus Christ?