

John 3:22-36 **Jesus and John Baptize – John's Testimony**

People came to Jesus to be baptized before John was imprisoned

22 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized.

23 Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. 24 For John had not yet been thrown into prison.

Dispute and Competitive Concern

25 Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification. 26 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's Humble Response – He must increase, but I must decrease

27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.

28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' 29 "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.

30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

Exalted position of Jesus – Belief merits Eternal Life

31 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. 32 And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. 33 He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true.

34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. 35 The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. 36 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." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

People came to Jesus to be baptized before John was imprisoned

✚ From Jerusalem, Jesus went to the Jordan River and led His disciples in baptizing. [John 3:22, 4:1-2]

✧ People came to Jesus to be baptized. [John 3:23, 26]

✧ John was baptizing at the time in Aenon near Salim because there was much water there. [John 3:23]

✧ This was before John was thrown into prison. [John 3:24]

✧ Jesus disciples did the baptizing, Jesus did not baptize. [John 4:1-2]

✧ The message of Jesus at first was the same as that of John the Baptist, "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." [Matthew 3:3, 4:17, Mark 1:14-15]

Dispute and Competitive Concern

✚ 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 3:25-26]

✧ The dispute between the disciples of John the Baptist and the Jews about purification, may have been in reference to the effect of Baptism in the cleansing away of sins. [Matthew 3:5-6, Mark 1:4-6, Luke 3:2-3, Acts 2:38, 22:16]

✧ The concern they brought to John was that he had competition in Jesus, to whom the people were flocking for baptism.

- ✧ How common it is today when people compare their favorite preacher with others as though there was competitive rivalry between them.
- ✧ We need to remember that we are all serving the same Lord Jesus, as God has enabled each of us to do so, and with a common cause, which is to call the unsaved into a saving relationship with the Lord.
- ✧ We are all part of the same body of Christ with each having his own function and contribution toward its growth and maturity. [1 Corinthians 12:1-30, Ephesians 4:1-16]
- ✧ There should be no rivalry or competitive spirit between fellow servants of the Lord. There should be no envy or jealousy between us. We should rejoice that in every way, souls are being drawn to the Master for Salvation. [Philippians 1:3-18, 1 Corinthians 1:10-15, 12:12-26]
- ✧ They remembered that John had himself testified to the identity of Jesus. [John 3:26]

John's Humble Response – He must increase, but I must decrease

- ✧ John's response is an excellent example of a true servant's heart.
- ✧ "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven." [John 3:27]
 - ✧ John thus expressed his realization that a man serving God was one who had received his message from God, not from mankind. The source of John's message was God, and John stated that the message of Jesus was also from God.
- ✧ John had clearly denied being the Christ, but that he was the one who was sent before Him (the Christ). [John 1:20, 23, 3:28, Isaiah 40:3]
- ✧ John had clearly declared that Jesus is indeed the Christ (Messiah). [John 1:15-18, 26-27, 29-34, 36, 3:28]
- ✧ John as the friend of the bridegroom, rejoices at the voice of the bridegroom. [John 3:29]
- ✧ Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. **He must increase, but I must decrease.** [John 3:29-30]
 - ✧ John is completely satisfied that the people are flocking to Jesus. His work of introducing the Messiah is now complete, but as long as John lives He will continue doing his best to prepare the people for the Messiah and the Kingdom of Heaven.

Exalted position of Jesus – Belief merits Eternal Life

- ✧ As revealed in chapter one, Jesus is the Word, Who was God with God in the beginning, through Whom all creation was created, He came from above, and is above all as John is now expressing. [John 3:31]
- ✧ The message of Jesus, is the message He received from God Most High. [John 3:32, 34, 7:16, 14:24]
- ✧ The message of Jesus is a testimony of what He has seen and heard. [John 3:32]
- ✧ His testimony is rejected. [John 3:32]
- ✧ Whoever receives the testimony of Jesus is certifying that God is true. [John 3:33]
- ✧ To Jesus, God does not give the Spirit by measure, but measurelessly. [John 3:34]
- ✧ The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. [John 3:35]
- ✧ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life. [John 3:36]
 - ✧ He who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him. [John 3:36]