



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 8

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text - John 3:22-36

Summary:

After his shocking conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus goes into the wilderness and baptizes many. Because John the Baptist was also baptizing in this area, the question arose among John's disciples as to why many were going to Jesus rather than to John as in the past. And this question leads to John's final recorded testimony about Jesus – that Jesus is the greater one who was to come. Here we also see John's famous (and incredibly humble) statement: "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease." Here, we see John speaking about Jesus in no uncertain terms, fulfilling his role as the herald and prophet: "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. What do you think was happening as Jesus (it's likely that Jesus' disciples were actually doing the baptisms – see 4:2) and John the Baptist are both baptizing? What would have been the dynamic between John's followers and Jesus' disciples? Support your answer with what you've read in John's gospel up to this point.
3. What's the problem with John's disciples (vv. 25-26)? Why? **Application:** Have you ever felt 'upstaged' or surpassed in popularity/importance? How did you react?

4. What was John's answer to his disciples when they complained that Jesus was eclipsing him (vv.27-30)? How did knowing his role and being content in that role bring John such great joy (v. 29)?

5. **Application:** How does pride or self-promotion get in the way of real joy in our lives? How might we seek joy in humility? Be specific.

6. Vv. 31-36 consist of a powerful testimony about the nature of Jesus' claims and the importance of our response. What's the distinction that John draws between Jesus ("He who comes from above...", "He who comes from heaven...") and himself ("He who is of the earth...")?

7. Why is the aforementioned distinction (from question 6) important when it comes to Jesus' testimony (vv. 32-33)? What's the relationship between the truthfulness of Jesus' words and the truthfulness of God himself? What does that tell you about the relationship between Jesus and the Father?

8. What do you make of the Trinitarian references in vv. 34-35? In other words, how does John present the relationship among Father, Son, and Spirit?

9. What's the relationship between *belief* and *obedience* in v. 36? **Application:** How well do belief and obedience align in your own life? What are some areas where they fail to align?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?