

John's Gospel

Lesson 6: From John to Jesus!

John 3:22-36

1. From last week's reading, Wiersbe states that Jesus is portrayed in three different roles in John 3.
 - a. What are they? The _____ (1-21), the _____ (22-33), and the _____ (31-36).
 - b. Wiersbe states that the Lord used four different illustrations to teach Nicodemus the basics of salvation. What are they? _____ (3:7), the _____ (3:8-13), the _____ on the pole (3:14-18), and _____ and _____ (3:19-21).
 - c. What are the two "parents" for spiritual birth? The _____ of God (3:5) and the _____ of God (1 Peter 1:23-25; James 1:18). Explain.
2. Read verses 22-30.

In verse 25, we read that an argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over ceremonial washing. The Jews were very concerned about purification (Mark 7:1-23; John 18:28). Under the Old Covenant, it was necessary for them to keep themselves ceremonially clean if they were to serve God. However, please note that the old covenant (the law) could not bring about salvation (Romans 3:20). The Law was actually given to point out man's sin and drive him to Christ (Galatians 3:24). John the Baptist was the last prophet under this old covenant (Luke 16:16). Jesus ushered in a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 8:6; 12:24). John's ministry marks the end of the old covenant.

John's disciples started this argument over ceremonial cleansing. It began over a doctrinal issue (purification) but quickly turned personal. Some of John's followers were growing increasingly jealous over the popularity of Jesus' ministry. John's ministry was beginning to decline, while Jesus' was beginning to increase. In verses 27-36, we are provided with John's response to this tense development. In John's response, we are given further insight into the question, "Who is Jesus?"

- a. What did John mean by saying, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven" (1 Corinthians 4:7; 15:10; Ephesians 3:7)?

- b. How does John's response eliminate any room for jealousy and apply this truth to ministries today?
- c. John reminds his followers of his life purpose. According to verse 28, what is it (Luke 7:24-28; John 1:6-7)?
- d. In John 1:29, John the Baptist called Jesus the Lamb of God. In verse 29, what other title did John give to Jesus?
- e. Read Isaiah 62:5; 2 Corinthians 11:1-2; Ephesians 5:22-25; Revelation 19:6-9; and 21:9. Using the imagery of a bride and bridegroom explain the relationship that the Lord desires to have with each one of us?
- f. The Bible reveals over and over that we can know God personally (John 10:3-4, 14-15). How does this differ from other religions?

3. Read verses 31-33.

- a. Where did Jesus come from (John 3:13; 6:38; 1 Corinthians 15:47)?
- b. Read John 6:50-51, 58; 8:42; 13:3; 16:28; 17:8; and Ephesians 4:10. What do these verses teach us about who Jesus is (John 1:14)?
- c. What does John tell us regarding Jesus' testimony?
- d. During the Old Testament days, God spoke through the prophets that He raised up for that very purpose. Read Hebrews 1:1-3. Who has God chosen to speak through during these last days?

- e. Read Luke 20:9-19 along with Nehemiah 9:26; Jeremiah 7:25-26; 25:4-7; Matthew 23:34; Acts 7:51-52; and Hebrews 11:36-38. How has God attempted to reach the world with the truth?
- f. Read John 14:6 and 37-38. Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” How would you answer Pilate’s question?
- g. According to verse 32, what has been the world’s response to Jesus’ testimony about Himself?
- h. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14, 2 Corinthians 4:4 and Ephesians 2:1. Give three reasons why the world willfully rejects Jesus’ testimony to the truth and explain each reason.
- i. Today, when a man accepts Jesus’ testimony (John 14:6) what is he certifying (accepting and approving) about God?

It has been said that all God really desires from the world is to be believed!

- j. Do you believe in the One whom God has sent into the world? If so, how do you show God that you believe?
- k. Read 1 John 1:6-7; 2:3-6; 2:9-10, 15-17; 3:20-23. In addition to writing the gospel of John, John also wrote three epistles, 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John. (He also wrote Revelation.) In 1 John he gives three tests that in essence reveal whether someone has truly become a child of God. Take the self-examination and see how you stand before God.

Explain the three-part exam:

- The Obedience test (1 John 1:6-7; 2:3-6):
- The Love test (1 John 2:9-10, 15-17):
- The Truth test (1 John 3:20-23):

1. Can you **know** beyond a shadow of doubt that you are truly a child of God, that is, that you have been born again, and thus, have eternal life (1 John 5:13)? Explain.

In the NASV, John 3:33 reads, “He who has received His testimony has set his seal to this, that God is true.”

Having stated the general rule, John gave the exception. Although the majority of people reject Jesus’ message, not everyone does. There are those who accept His testimony, believing in Him for eternal life. In the ancient world, people set their seal to something (often a signet ring: Genesis 41:42; Esther 3:10, 12; 8:2, 8, 10; Daniel 6:17) as a sign of complete acceptance and approval. In today’s jargon, they signed off on it. Those who have received Christ’s testimony thereby certify their belief that God is true when He speaks through His Son, as always (cf. John 17:7; Romans 3:4; Titus 1:2).

Unlike human teachers, whose words sometimes agree with divine truth and sometimes do not, Jesus always spoke in complete harmony with the Father. Thus, those who profess to believe in God yet reject Jesus Christ are deceived. Jesus is on with the Father (10:30). “He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him” (5:23), and the Father said of Him, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!” (Matthew 17:5). He is “the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through [Him]” (14:6). To reject Jesus is to call God a liar (1 John 5:10), and to perish eternally (John 8:24).¹

4. Read verses 34-36.

- a. When God sends someone to speak on His behalf what does God give to him?
- b. Men have spoken and written (Scripture) on behalf of God. Read Galatians 1:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16; and 2 Peter 1:20-21. Why can we trust the Bible and the Word of God spoken by the **true** man of God?

¹ John MacArthur, Jr., *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary John 1-11*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 2006). 131.

- c. What does God promise to all those who believe (trust) in the Son?
 - d. According to verse 36, where does God's wrath (His settled, holy displeasure against sin) reside? Explain (John 3:18; Romans 1:18; Revelation 20:11-15).
5. Read in *Be Alive* pages 40-45.

