

Morning Worship - August 11, 2013

John 3:22-36, Accepting Our Position in God's Kingdom

1. Introduction - Read John 3:22-36
2. 22-24 _____ and _____ Baptize _____
 - a. 22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. 23 John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized 24 (for John had not yet been put in prison).
 - i. *Aenon near Salim* - we are not certain where this location is, but we do know that John and Jesus chose it because, "water was plentiful there," which made it a perfect location for a ministry of baptism.
 - ii. *John had not yet been put in prison* - this is a point of clarification by John the Apostle so that there was no misunderstanding between the synoptic gospels and John's gospel. John wanted us to know that there was a time period of _____ in the ministries of Jesus and John the Baptist before John was killed by Herod.
3. 25-30 John the Baptist _____ his _____ in the Kingdom
 - a. 25 Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." 27 John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given 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 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease."
 - i. Discussion about purification - we don't know exactly what was being questioned, but there was probably _____ about which water rite was the best - Jewish, John's or Christ's?
 - b. "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him."
 - i. John will tell us in the next chapter that Jesus was not physically baptizing, he let his disciples do it: 4:1-2 - *Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples)*
 - ii. "All are going to him" - This was a statement said out of _____ and jealousy over the loss of followers due to a more seemingly popular minister. You can almost detect a question that is kept silent... "what are you going to do about it?"
4. 31-36 Christ's pre-eminence in _____ and _____
 - a. Christ's pre-eminence of ORIGIN - 1 He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all.
 - i. Comparison of two realms - much like with the talk with Nicodemus - "Flesh/Flesh, Spirit/Spirit"
 - b. Christ's pre-eminence of WORD - 32 He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. 33 Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. 34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.
 - i. *Sets his seal* - [spragizo] - signet ring, ancient way of putting your "signature" on a document to prove _____.
 - c. Christ's pre-eminence of RESOURCE - 35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 36 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.
 - i. Again the comparison of believing/rejecting Christ is the difference between having eternal life and remaining under God's wrath [orge] - state of fury and anger.
- v. CLOSE
 - a. Titus 3:4-7