

John 3b

3:22-36

22 Some estimate that this ministry of Jesus lasted about six months. It was very similar to John's ministry in that it consisted mostly of a baptism of repentance. It was not Jesus, but his disciples who baptized. 4:1-2

23 -24 Mark 1:5 John and his cousin Jesus were doing the same type of ministry in the same region. The Spirit of God must have been drawing these crowds, preparing them for the days ahead when the church would spring up and calling people to faith in Jesus. Matthew 14:3

25 We don't know what this had to do with the following verses, but it was a common area of contention with the legalistic Pharisees. Mark 7:2-5,8; Hebrews 9:10 Perhaps they were arguing about who had the authority to baptize.

26 Ministerial jealousy? The crowds were bigger at Jesus' place. Notice the spiritual understanding and maturity of John in his answer.

27 – 28 Are the crowds there? Then it is because God has deemed it so. What trust John had in the Sovereignty of God! He had seen Sovereignty bring the crowds to him, and now he was seeing God send them to Jesus. 1Corinthians 12:11 The immature person will claim the sovereignty of God when things are working like they want, but not when things aren't going their way. John reminded them that this is what he had told them all along. He was preparing the way for the Messiah. The time had come for the shift. Luke 1:76

29 I don't believe we can really understand the depth of this verse without understanding the cultural tradition of marriage in that day. When the groom would go to consummate the marriage with his fiancée, the friend of the groom would stand outside the door of the mother-in-law's home. When the groom had gone in to that home where he and the bride joined together sexually as one, the groom would call out to the friend of the bridegroom. The friend would then announce to the crowd waiting in the courtyard to begin the wedding celebration. John was hearing of Jesus' union with His bride, His followers. It was a time to celebrate, not complain. John was joyful for Jesus, the Messiah.

30 Oh that we could all grasp this as John did. We really have a ministry similar to John's. We introduce people to the Savior. At first they may be attracted to our zeal, our joy and purpose. Then they start to find it is all from Jesus and become attached to Him. We should be joyful at that spiritual growth. Sadly, many do not have the spiritual maturity of John, and long to have people clinging to them instead of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 3:5

31 – 32 This is what Jesus alluded to in verse 13. 8:23 We are all born of Adam's nature. We speak with the influence of Adam's nature, but not Jesus!

33 If you accept Jesus' testimony, that He is from the Father – the monogenes – one and only Son of God, then you have discovered (NLT) God to be Truth.

34 Without the influence of the sinful nature, having come directly from God, having spent eternity in His presence – His words are truth and life. They are the very words of God. 7:16; 8:28; Isaiah 11:2-5

35 5:20-22; 13:3; Matthew 11:27

36 See 3:16 with an emphasis on 'perish'. Wrath is the attribute of God you and I deserve in all justice and truth. When we first chose to sin, we rebelled against all goodness and righteousness. God declared that the soul that sins will die. Justice must be meted out. That justice was met on the cross. If you will not receive the substitutionary payment on your behalf, then you are still deserving of wrath. There are only two clear choices. Accept what God did on your behalf, or face your just sentence already awaiting you. There is no middle ground.