

## Quarter Four: Themes in the Gospel of John

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### Lesson 6—More Testimonies About Jesus

Sunday: Humility of Soul: John the Baptist Testifies Again

November 3, 2024

- **Last Week:** “The Testimony of the Samaritans”
  - John 4 – Jesus’ encounter with the woman at the well
    - Jesus’ witness to the Samaritan woman
    - The Samaritan’s woman’s witness to others
  
- **This Week:** “More Testimonies About Jesus”
  - John 1, 3, 5, 6, 7
  - In John’s Gospel, Jesus proclaims who He is
    - Sometimes, Jesus proclaims astonishing things about
      - Himself
      - Who He is
      - Who sent Him
      - Where He came from
    - John 7:15 – (after Jesus taught in the temple) – “And the **Jews** marveled, saying, ‘How does this Man know letters, having never studied?’”
      - Jews = used often in this gospel for those who opposed Jesus
    - Pharisees sent officers to arrest Jesus and they failed to arrest Him.
      - When officers were asked “Why?”
      - John 7:46 – “The officers answered, ‘No man ever spoke like this Man!’”
  - Jesus also performs miracles that **show** who He is
    - John 7:31 – “‘When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?’”
  - \*Jesus talked the talk – but He also walked the walk
  - Division occurred amongst the people – in response to Jesus
    - Memory text: “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” (John 12:32, NKJV)
      - Yet, everyone still has a choice to make
    - Healing of the man by the Pool of Bethesda
      - Attracted ire of some leaders
    - Discussion after the feeding of the 5,000
      - Resulted in the rejection of Jesus
      - John 6:66 – “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”

- Resurrection of Lazarus
  - Created faith in some – and pushed Him to the cross by others
- Testimonies of who Jesus is
  - John the Baptist, John 1 & 3 (Sunday & SQ)
  - Response of people after feeding of the 5k, John 6 (James)
  - Witness of the Father, John 5 (Daniel)
  - Witness of the crowd, John 7 (John D)

**Memory Text:** ““And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”” (John 12:32, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Humility of Soul: John the Baptist Testifies Again (Jill)
  - John 1:6 – 8 & 3:25 – 36 – jealousy between John’s disciples & Jesus – and John the Baptist’s true humility
- 2. **Monday:** A New Understanding of the Messiah (SQ)
  - John 1:32 – 36 – John the Baptist’s testimony of Jesus as the Lamb of God (not a conquering Messiah, but a suffering One)
- 3. **Tuesday:** Acceptance & Rejection (James)
  - John 6:51 – 71 – many followers rejection of Jesus, while the 12 choose to follow Him
- 4. **Wednesday:** The Witness of the Father (Daniel)
  - John 5:36 – 38; John 12 – the Father’s witness of the divinity of Jesus & His hour of glory = the cross (ultimate sacrifice as the Lamb of God)
- 5. **Thursday:** The Witness of the Crowd (John D)
  - John 7 & the response of others to Jesus & His Messiahship

## Sunday: Humility of Soul: John the Baptist Testifies Again

John 1:6 – 8; John 3:25 – 36

- Final recorded words of John the Baptist
  - John 3:25 – 36
- **Prologue**
  - After the Passover, Jesus & His disciples left Jerusalem for the country of Judea, where they baptized
  - John 3:22 – “After these things, Jesus & His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized.”
    - John 4:2 – makes it clear that Jesus did not baptize, but His disciples only
  - John 3:23, 24 – “Now John was also 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.”
    - Several months have passed since Jesus was baptized by John
    - John has moved his ministry from Bethany on the other side of the Jordan to Aenon near Salim
    - John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins

- Luke 3:3 – “And he (John the Baptist) went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”
  - Just like the Christian baptism today
    - John’s baptism was a spiritual and moral baptism (not necessarily ceremonial)
  - His baptism not related to ritual impurity
    - Radically different from all other 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish washings, including the baptism of Gentiles who converted to Judaism
- **The disagreement**
  - Initial issue was about whether John’s baptism related to these ritual washings that the Jews observed
    - John 3:25 – “Then there arose a dispute between some of John’s disciples & the Jews about purification.”
      - Washing rituals – some Jews bathed every day in cold water as a ritual
      - Therefore, John’s moral baptism could be open to misinterpretation by some
  - John’s disciples brought the issue to John; however, instead, the issue became about Jesus & their jealousy of Jesus
    - John 3:26 – “And they (John’s disciples) 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!’”
    - Jesus’ baptismal ministry had become more popular than John’s
  - Have you been there?
    - Jealousy in the spiritual world
      - Expect it in the secular world:
        - Climb the corporate ladder faster
        - Have a nicer car, better job, prettier wife
    - Yet, in the spiritual world?
      - More people flock to hear this preacher
      - More people go to prayer meeting in this church
      - This preacher has more views on YouTube
      - More people like this singer or Bible teacher or whatever
    - \*speaking at a church
      - Fear of not meeting expectations of others
        - Just as strong as jealousy of others’ success
- **John’s response**
  - **1. Anything I have is from God**
    - John 3:28 – “John answered and said, ‘A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.’”
      - It’s not mine to earn, nor mine to keep
      - It was given by God above
    - God gave John his mission – and his success
    - Likewise, God gave Jesus His mission – and His success

- **2. That's not my role**
  - John 3:28 – “You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent before Him.’”
    - I’m not the Messiah – that was Him, over there
  - John was not the Messiah – He was the forerunner of the Messiah
    - John’s job was to point people to the Messiah
    - John 1:7, 8 – “This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. (8) He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.”
  - Its why John said this, when he saw Jesus:
    - John 1:29 – “...Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
- **3. I will experience joy in other’s successes**
  - John 3:29 – “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.”
    - Illustration of John & Jesus’ roles
      - Jesus = the Bridegroom
      - Jesus is coming for His bride = the church / His people
      - Friend of the bridegroom = the best man
    - John the Baptist arranged the “wedding” between Jesus & His people
- **4. I will push for others to be seen, recognized & rewarded**
  - I will be happy where God has placed me, doing what God has given me to do
  - John 3:30 – “He must increase, but I must decrease.”
    - When the role of best man was fulfilled, the best man would fade away & leave the bride & her Groom together
    - The best man never leaves with the bride – the whole point was for the bride & bridegroom to live together forever
  - This = a true example of humility & sense of mission
    - \*3ABN – want people to have tunnel vision
      - Yet, vision for the whole of the ministry is best of all
    - \*Jill, would be a great loss, but I can do without “so & so” or “such & such” if it’s for the best of the ministry
  - I don’t need
    - Anyone to know I worked on that project
    - Anybody to applaud how hard I work
    - Anybody to recognize how many Bible studies I give, or songs I sing, or sermons I preach
  - Let’s talk about others –
    - Accomplishments
    - Value
    - Heart for God & others

- **5. I recognize my place & position**
  - I am not in the same category as Jesus
  - John 3:31 – “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.”
  - Comparison between John & Jesus
    - One from heaven
    - One from the earth
  
  - John 3:35, 36 – “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.”
    - Jesus is the Father’s only Begotten Son
      - Could John say that?
    - Believes = Gk, constant action over time
  
    - Belief in Jesus leads to eternal life
      - Could John say that?
  
    - All faced with a choice – accept or reject Him

**Our response**

- 1. Recognize anything you have is from God
- 2. Know your role
- 3. Experience joy in other’s successes
- 4. Strive to push others forward
- 5. Recognize your own place & position

**Lesson #7: “Blessed are those who Believe” -**