

Sometimes it is easier and seems more plausible to believe what humanity says about Jesus Christ (which includes skepticism and unbelief), rather than believing what God says about Jesus. With so much evidence of the deity of Jesus Christ, why are so many people prone to unbelief?

Why do the words of mere men become more significant than the words of a holy and perfect God?

When truth is proclaimed, when the evidence is clear, belief follows. What actions accompany belief?

Take time to meditate on who Jesus is, and thank him for what he has done.

Prayer Response

If you are not currently in a Small Group, we encourage you to discuss your reflection questions with a family member or a close friend. Previous lessons are available on-line at www.sgc.org/John.asp

If you would like to be part of a Small Group, please contact Dori Sear at dsear@sgc.org



John 3:22-36

Lesson 5
For October 19, 2008

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The Baptist's Testimony

1. What are the circumstances described in verses 22-23 that set up the tension described in verse 24 and following?
2. Comparing 3:22 with 4:2, did Jesus himself baptize anyone? (See 4:2)
3. The specifics of the argument in verse 25 are unknown to us but what concern did it raise for John's disciples (v26)? Speculate on what John's disciples' fears are.
4. Comparing John 1:6-7 with 3:27, what might John mean in 3:27?
5. Remembering 1:15, 20 and 23, of what is John reminding his disciples in 3:28?
6. Who are the "friend" and the "bridegroom" in verse 29 and what is John's point?

Based on verse 26, who is likely the "bride" in verse 29?

7. It seems likely that John the Baptist's words end with verse 30 and beginning in verse 31 we have the author John's words.

Verse 31 speaks of "the one who comes from above." How do 1:1-14 help us define this one?

8. In verse 31 who is "the one who is from the earth"?

What is the grand conclusion of verse 31, repeated twice?

9. In verse 32, what does John say is the quality of Jesus' testimony?

10. How does the last clause of verse 32 confirm John 1:10-11?

11. John 1:11-12 contrast two kinds of people in the same way John 3:32-33 do. But in 3:33 the acceptance of Jesus' testimony results in what?

12. Comparing verses 31-32 with verse 34, who is "the one whom God has sent?"

13. In verses 34-35, in what four ways does John describe the unlimited authority of Jesus?

14. How does verse 36 compare and contrast with 1:12?

Further insight into 3:36: John 3:16-18; 1 John 5:12; Romans 1:18-20; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.

15. There is a great difference between the Creator and the created, between the Savior and the sinner. How does John (the Baptist) live out this difference in his own testimony and actions? How do we live it out?

16. In verses 31ff what evidence does the author John give for the uniqueness of Jesus? How does it fit with John's stated purpose in 20:30-31?

Personal Reflection

In v. 30 John the Baptist said that "he (Jesus) must become greater; I must become less." How might the same be true for you? What must decrease?

In this passage we find a contrast between the temporal and the eternal, the things below and things above, of Christ's deity and our humanity. We are challenged to live by faith. How do these truths impact your relationship with God? How does it change your perspective and the way you live out your faith?