

JOHN 3 vs 22

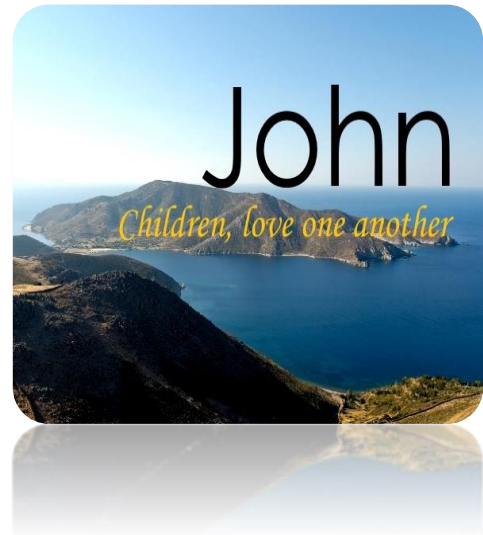
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²² After these things Jesus and His disciples went to the land of **Judea**; and there He tarried with them / He waited with his disciples, his **mathetes**, those doing the math,

and baptized / Jesus was not externally baptizing, but His disciples were; John lets us know that detail in the next chapter. At the baptism of Jesus, John declared Jesus will baptize with spirit and fire; so that baptism by Jesus will be definitely different than John's little water baptisms.

²³ And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim / John the Baptist was also baptizing in the neighborhood; and archeologists are not certain where either of those places are; but undoubtedly in the precincts of Herod's jurisdiction is where John the Baptist was externally baptizing,



because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized / the multitudes came: friends and the curious and skeptics they all came, because they wanted to be externally baptized by John.

²⁴ For John was not yet thrown into prison.

²⁵ Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews / now pretty much all of them were Jewish, Jesus was Jewish, but the gospel writers consistently highlight the affronted Jewish leadership who were irritated that they were losing their audience to both John and Jesus.

There arose a question about purifying / and you can imagine: some seemingly pious arguments over: how much water, and how frequently; you know, the sprinkling, pouring and immersion debates; and is it fresh water or muddy water? Or holy sparkling water? And 1,000 other divisive questions... missing the mark. John told us: Jesus would baptize **by Spirit and fire**. No wonder, Paul wrote on the first page to the Corinthians; I thank God I baptized none of you; God sent me to preach his Good News, not to baptize.

And by the way, that Greek word for **purifying** is: **katharismos**, we know a catheter drains the sludge and gunk from our bodies; and we know whoever these guys were, they fixed their disagreements over external issues. The first time Jesus the good Teacher uses this word, He says; **Blessed are the pure in heart**... not the pure in arm pits; or pure in stinking feet: Jesus said to his first-grade class; **Blessed are the poor in spirit**... because He has come to enrich us. Titus, the Gentile leader of the early church; Titus settled the question long after Jesus ascended to heaven... when he writes: Jesus Christ himself... redeems and purifies His uniquely precious people.

There arose a question between some of John's disciples... and devout religious people / or possibly divisive agents of religion central... **about purifying.**

²⁶ And they came to John, and said to him, Rabbi / probably both John's students along with these discordant disputers who love to argue that they are right... and everybody else is wrong,

Rabbi, He who was with you beyond Jordan, to whom you bare witness to forfeit your life, Look / pay attention! Don't you see what is happening John? and this supposed anxiety comes from some who seems so concerned about details; with their legalistic proclivity, who misspoke: Jesus was not baptizing, but His disciples were,

the same baptizes and ALL come to him / and whatever genius was stirring up division among them, along with John's disciples, they all were bothered; which sounds like the 12 disciples who were bothered by others also doing the Lord's work.

²⁷ **John answered** / sizing up the situation **and said, What God gives to mankind is what we gladly receive** / John knew if things like popularity and attention came or went... those little things were beyond his control; it all was a gift from God; and he was to be faithful.

²⁸ **All of you heard my witness willing to forfeit my life, that I said, I am not the Christ** / John the Baptist knew: he was NOT the promised Messiah sent from God; he knew who he was, and who he wasn't; he did not attempt to confuse anyone; and this great voice... crying in the wilderness, declares the same message we hear Jesus telling Nicodemus; John adds,

but I have been sent before Him.

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 firm voice of the bridegroom** / the best friend is very glad for the bridegroom; to the surprise of those concerned and the disappointment of those who sought division; John says:

So hearing this... my joy is fulfilled / hearing what?

Hearing... ALL come to Him / that did not make John the Baptist sad; so he was very different than most. John the Baptist knew he was somebody; he was sent by God... preparing the way of the Lord. John wasn't trying to make himself somebody. Hearing that all come to Jesus, his joy was filled to the brim;

³⁰ **He must increase, but I must decrease** / John wasn't looking to become just another turd on top of the dung heap -- the shit pile of humanity. John knew his Boss was on His way; no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.

³¹ **He who comes from above is above all: but he who is of the earth is earthly, and speaks of the earth: He who comes from heaven is over all.**

³² **And He testifies willing to forfeit His life for what He has seen and heard; whether or not any one welcomes his testimony**: when the Son of Man first declared what He had seen and heard from His Father in heaven... and was willing to forfeit His life to tell us, nobody, no man or woman took to heart what He said. In every generation things don't change much; **few really care what Jesus said**; if they cared, you would hear it evident somewhere in their conversation.

³³ He who welcomes **His testimony** what He saw, what He heard... willing to forfeit His life... has certified... that God is true.

Jesus is the Testimony of God.

³⁴ For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God / John the Baptist spoke God's word; **Jesus Christ is God's Word**... and in the Church He is building... we can always tell when someone is sent by the Good Pastor; his powerful words will turn our attention, toward what God his Father told him.

Many years ago, Dr. Dallas Willard of USC said: **the power of God... is for the purposes of God... in the people He prepares:**

for He gives the Spirit without measure / whether these words have some general application or are misused by the spiritually ignorant... is not the point of this passage declaring: the Son of Man is over all, and the Spirit of the Lord is not divided in little bits and pieces. God our Father is generous; not cheap;

He gives the Spirit without measure / He generously gives the Spirit to all who will ask.

³⁵ **The Father loves the Son**, and has given all things into His hand / not complicated, is it?

³⁶ He who believes the Son has eternal life: but he who does **not** believe the Son, will **not** see life; but the wrath of God resides on him.

There is a choice who to listen to and follow, but the choice is definitely... not complicated!

[The Love of God](#)

[This is My Father's World](#)

[His Sheep Hear His Voice And Follow Him](#)

[The Spirit and the Bride Say Come](#)

[O Come Let Us Adore Him](#)