

John 3:22-36

22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and ¹was baptizing. **23** John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized **24** (for ²John had not yet been put in prison). **25** Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over ³purification. **26** And they came to John and said to him, ⁴"Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, ⁵to whom you bore witness--look, he is baptizing, and ⁶all are going to him." **27** John answered, ⁷"A person cannot receive even one thing ⁸unless it is given him ⁹from heaven. **28** You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ¹⁰"I am not the Christ, but ¹¹I have been sent before him.'" **29** ¹²The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. ¹³The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, ¹⁴rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. **30** ¹⁵He must increase, but I must decrease." **31** ¹⁶He who comes from above ¹⁷is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and ¹⁸speaks in an earthly way. ¹⁹He who comes from heaven ²⁰is above all. **32** ²¹He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, ²²yet no one receives his testimony. **33** Whoever receives his testimony ²³sets his seal to this, ²⁴that God is true. **34** For he whom ²⁵God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit ²⁶without measure. **35** ²⁷The Father loves the Son and ²⁸has given all things into his hand. **36** ²⁹Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; ³⁰whoever does not obey the Son shall not ³¹see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Cross References

1. John 3:22 - ver. 26; ch. 4:1, 2
2. John 3:24 - [ch. 5:35]; See Matt. 4:12
3. John 3:25 - ch. 2:6
4. John 3:26 - ver. 2
5. John 3:26 - See ch. 1:7
6. John 3:26 - ch. 12:19
7. John 3:27 - 1 Cor. 4:7; Heb. 5:4
8. John 3:27 - ch. 6:65; [James 1:17]
9. John 3:27 - See Matt. 21:25
10. John 3:28 - See ch. 1:20
11. John 3:28 - Mal. 3:1; Mark 1:2; Luke 1:17; Acts 19:4

12. John 3:29 - See Matt. 25:1
13. John 3:29 - Judg. 14:20; Song 5:1
14. John 3:29 - Matt. 9:15
15. John 3:30 - Matt. 3:11
16. John 3:31 - ch. 8:23
17. John 3:31 - Rom. 9:5; Eph. 1:21
18. John 3:31 - [1 John 4:5]
19. John 3:31 - See ver. 13
20. John 3:31 - Rom. 9:5; Eph. 1:21
21. John 3:32 - ver. 11
22. John 3:32 - [ver. 19; ch. 1:11; 5:43; 12:37]
23. John 3:33 - [ch. 6:27; 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; Rev. 7:3-8]
24. John 3:33 - [1 John 5:10]
25. John 3:34 - See ver. 17
26. John 3:34 - [Ezek. 4:11, 16]
27. John 3:35 - See ch. 5:20
28. John 3:35 - See Matt. 28:18
29. John 3:36 - ver. 15, 16; ch. 5:24; 6:40, 47, 54; 1 John 5:12, 13; [ch. 11:25, 26; 20:31]; See Matt. 19:16
30. John 3:36 - [Rom. 2:8; Eph. 5:6; Col. 3:6]
31. John 3:36 - ver. 3

Day Two – *Observations*

Read John 3:22-36. Let's consider what **observations** can be made from these verses.

1. What do you notice about the timing of this scene?
2. Briefly describe, in your own words, what's happening here.
3. What analogy does John the Baptist use to describe Jesus/himself? Why is that interesting? (*think "context"*)
4. What does John the Baptist say about *himself*?
5. Underline the claims that John the Baptist makes about *Christ* and write them in "bullet point" form here.
6. Having looked carefully at the details of the text, what questions do you have?

Days Three & Four – Interpretation

Read John 3:22-36. We'll take two days to consider how to rightly **interpret** these verses.

1. Look at the cross reference for verse 22. What important detail do you learn?

Why do you think John (the author) included this detail?

2. What can you learn about the statement in parenthesis, verse 24, from study notes & cross references?
3. What seems to be the motivation behind John's disciples' question?
4. Each phrase of John the Baptist's discourse with his disciples is loaded with meaning. Take each phrase individually and consider its meaning. Write your own thoughts first, then use cross references and/or study notes as needed. This will take some time, but it is the only exercise for today & tomorrow. **Don't give up.**

"A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.

You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.

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.

He must increase, but I must decrease.

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.

He bears witness to what he has seen and heard,

Yet no one receives his testimony.

Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.

For he whom God has sent utters the words of God,

For he gives the Spirit without measure.

The Father loves the Son

And has given all things into his hand.

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.”

5. Recall the question of the disciples that John was answering, and the motive behind the question. What was the “bottom line” of John’s discourse here?

Day Five – Application

Read John 3:22-36. How do these verses **apply** to our lives and to the church today?

1. How is the attitude of John the Baptist's disciples reflected in the church culture today?

Is there even a hint of such an attitude in your own heart? What must you do?

2. Which of the claims of John the Baptist about Christ resonates most deeply for you? Why?

What does such an understanding require of you? How will you respond *in life*?

3. What appears to be John the Baptist's source of joy and satisfaction?

Why is that significant, given what you know from your study for verse 24?

What is *your* source of joy and satisfaction? What are you willing to give up in favor of such joy?

John 4:1-42

1 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and ¹baptizing more disciples than John **2** (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), **3** he left Judea and departed ²again for Galilee. **4** ³And he had to pass through Samaria. **5** So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field ⁴that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. **6** Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, ⁵wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. **7** A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ⁶"Give me a drink." **8** (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) **9** The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (⁷For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) **10** Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you ⁸living water." **11** The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" **12** ⁹Are you greater than our father Jacob? ¹⁰He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." **13** Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, **14** but ¹¹whoever drinks of the water that I will give him ¹²will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become ¹³in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." **15** The woman said to him, "Sir, ¹⁴give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." **16** Jesus said to her, "Go, ¹⁵call your husband, and come here." **17** The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; **18** for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." **19** The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that ¹⁶you are ¹⁷a prophet. **20** ¹⁸Our fathers worshiped on ¹⁹this mountain, but you say that ²⁰in Jerusalem is ²¹the place where people ought to worship." **21** Jesus said to her, ²²"Woman, believe me, ²³the hour is coming when ²⁴neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. **22** ²⁵You worship what you do not know; ²⁶we worship what we know, for ²⁷salvation is ²⁸from the Jews. **23** But ²⁹the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father ³⁰in spirit and ³¹truth, for the Father ³²is seeking such people to worship him. **24** God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." **25** The woman said to him, "I know that ³³Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, ³⁴he will tell us all things." **26** Jesus said to her, ³⁵"I who speak to you am he." **27** Just then ³⁶his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" **28** So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, **29** "Come, see a man ³⁷who told me

all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" **30** They went out of the town and were coming to him. **31** Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, ³⁸"Rabbi, eat." **32** But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." **33** So the disciples said to one another, ³⁹"Has anyone brought him something to eat?" **34** Jesus said to them, ⁴⁰"My food is ⁴¹to do the will of him who sent me and ⁴²to accomplish his work. **35** Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that ⁴³the fields are white for harvest. **36** Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that ⁴⁴sower and ⁴⁵reaper ⁴⁶may rejoice together. **37** For here the saying holds true, ⁴⁷'One sows and another reaps.' **38** I sent you to reap ⁴⁸that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, ⁴⁹and you have entered into their labor." **39** Many Samaritans ⁵⁰from that town believed in him ⁵¹because of ⁵²the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." **40** So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. **41** And many more believed ⁵³because of his word. **42** They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, ⁵⁴and we know that this is indeed ⁵⁵the Savior ⁵⁶of the world."

Cross references

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|---|---|
| 1. John 4:1 - ch. 3:22, 26 | 17. John 4:19 - Luke 7:16, 39; See Matt. 21:11 |
| 2. John 4:3 - ch. 2:11, 12 | 18. John 4:20 - Gen. 12:6, 7; 33:18, 20 |
| 3. John 4:4 - [Luke 13:33] | 19. John 4:20 - Judg. 9:7 |
| 4. John 4:5 - ver. 12; Gen. 33:19; 48:22; | 20. John 4:20 - See Deut. 12:5 |
| 5. John 4:6 - ch. 19:28; [Matt. 4:2; 8:24; 21:18] | 21. John 4:20 - [ch. 11:48] |
| 6. John 4:7 - [See ver. 6 above] | 22. John 4:21 - ch. 2:4 |
| 7. John 4:9 - Luke 9:53; [ch. 8:48; Ezra 4:3, 10] | 23. John 4:21 - ver. 23; ch. 5:25, 28; 16:2, 25, 32 |
| 8. John 4:10 - ch. 7:38; Jer. 2:13; 17:13 | 24. John 4:21 - Zeph. 2:11; Mal. 1:11; 1 Tim. 2:8 |
| 9. John 4:12 - [ch. 8:53] | 25. John 4:22 - [2 Kgs. 17:28-34; Acts 17:23] |
| 10. John 4:12 - ver. 5 | 26. John 4:22 - Ps. 147:19, 20; Isa. 2:3 |
| 11. John 4:14 - [ch. 6:35, 51, 58; 7:37] | 27. John 4:22 - Ps. 147:19, 20; Isa. 2:3; Rm. 3:1,2 |
| 12. John 4:14 - [Isa. 49:10; Rev. 7:16] | 28. John 4:22 - Matt. 2:4, 5; Acts 13:23 |
| 13. John 4:14 - ch. 7:38 | 29. John 4:23 - ver. 21 |
| 14. John 4:15 - [ch. 6:34] | 30. John 4:23 - [Rom. 8:15; Eph. 2:18; 6:18] |
| 15. John 4:16 - ch. 16:8 | 31. John 4:23 - Ps. 145:18; [ch. 1:17] |
| 16. John 4:19 - ch. 9:17; [ch. 6:14] | 32. John 4:23 - [ch. 6:44] |

33. John 4:25 - See ch. 1:41
34. John 4:25 - Deut. 18:18; [ver. 29]
35. John 4:26 - ch. 9:35-37
36. John 4:27 - ver. 8
37. John 4:29 - ver. 17, 18; [ver. 25]
38. John 4:31 - See ch. 1:38
39. John 4:33 - [ver. 11, 15; ch. 3:4; 6:34, 52]
40. John 4:34 - [Job 23:12]
41. John 4:34 - ch. 5:30; 6:38; 14:31
42. John 4:34 - ch. 5:36; 17:4
43. John 4:35 - Matt. 9:37; Luke 10:2
44. John 4:36 - [Matt. 13:37; Mark 4:14]
45. John 4:36 - ver. 38
46. John 4:36 - Isa. 9:3; [Amos 9:13]
47. John 4:37 - [Job 31:8]
48. John 4:38 - Josh. 24:13
49. John 4:38 - [Acts 8:5-17, 25]
50. John 4:39 - ver. 5, 8
51. John 4:39 - [ch. 17:20]
52. John 4:39 - ver. 29
53. John 4:41 - ch. 8:30
54. John 4:42 - [1 John 5:20]
55. John 4:42 - 1 John 4:14; [ch. 3:17; 12:47]
56. John 4:42 - See ch. 1:29

Day One – Review & Prepare

1. ***Begin by not panicking!*** This is a large “chunk” of text, but it is all one story, or scene. We’ll do the study a bit differently this week to get the most out of the passage.

To set the story in its context, take a few minutes to write a summary of the text that came immediately *before* this. Summarize John 3:22-36.

2. Review the lecture from John 3:22-36. Write three important points from the teacher’s perspective.
3. Prepare your heart for this week’s study by reading through John 4:1-42 two times. Once in your version and once in a version that is different from yours.
 - a. Make a note of phrases or words that are different in the “referenced” version (not your own).
 - b. Make a note of any questions that you have after this first reading.

Day Two – *John 4:1-15*

1. Given what you have learned about “observing” a text, make some notes about the details of these verses. Think about the basic questions “who, what, when, where, why”. List the details in “bullet form”.
2. What do you learn about Samaria & the Jews from the cross references and/or study notes?
3. Interpret this text by considering the cross references and any study notes to get a better understanding of “the water” that Jesus kept referring to.
4. Why do you think Jesus chose to have this conversation with a *woman*? How significant was it that she was from *Samaria*?

What impact, if any, does that have on your own perspective of the Savior?

Day Three – John 4:16-26

1. What new information do you *observe* from these verses that add to the scene taking place here?
2. Consider the cross references and/or study notes that help to explain the woman's understanding of "worship".
3. What do the cross references and/or study notes contribute to your understanding of Jesus' response regarding worship?

4. What did the woman say concerning the Messiah? What did she believe?

How do the cross references deepen your understanding of her theology?

5. How does Jesus' reference to "true worshippers" resonate with you? Are you encouraged? Convicted? Hopeful? Disappointed?

What must you do with what you know?

Day Four – John 4:27-38

1. What happened here? What are the *facts* that you can *observe*? List them.

2. What analogy does Jesus use to illustrate “the will of him who sent me”?

How do the cross references and/or study notes help you to understand the analogy?

3. Describe the disciples’ interaction with the woman.

Does this response bother you at all? Is it a reflection of your response to people in your world who are like the Samaritan woman?

What must you do?

4. Describe the woman’s response to her conversation with Jesus.

Are you inspired? Encouraged? Challenged? What will you do?

Day Five – John 4:39-41

1. What do you *observe* from these verses?

2. Why did the Samaritans believe?

How does that challenge you?

3. What was the significance of the Samaritan declaration, verse 42? (Use cross references/study notes as needed. But think, first, about *who* said this and *why* they were so confident.)

4. **Put it all together.** Finish this week by reading the text all the way through again. What significant *facts* stand out to you?

What are the three major topics of discussion that Jesus had in these verses?

5. Write a short prayer to articulate the *theology* of this text and your response to what you have learned. What do you need from the Lord? Who do you want to become? What do you long for?