

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

September 7, 2021

22 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. 23 Now John also was 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. 25 Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification. 26 And they 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!" 27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' 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 bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease. 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. 32 And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. 33 He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. 34 For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. 35 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."

1. JESUS THE BAPTIZER vs.22-24

- a. Jesus baptized! It's amazing to think of this.
- b. Jesus confirms the work of John.

2. THE DISPUTE THAT AROSE vs.25-26

- a. Disputes always arise when we fall for the temptation to compare. It's striking to note that without even knowing it John's disciple were putting him in direct competition with the Lord.
- b. While we often see competition and comparison from outside our personal circles, it's striking to note that many of the great leaders of the Bible received this critic from within their personal circles.
- c. What two things were John's disciples comparing? The ministry and the multitude.
- d. How is this seen in our personal lives? Church life?

3. JOHN'S POWERFUL ANSWER vs.27-36

- a. All ministries, gifts, opportunities and elevations come from God and He should get the glory. But when we compete and compare we steal glory from God.
- b. Be grateful for your role and gift.
- c. Honor the gifts of others.
- d. Celebrate the success of others. John declares that his joy is made full because all men we coming to Jesus.