

## John 3:22-35

**22.** After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and **baptized**.

- **John 4:1-2** "Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and \_\_\_\_\_ more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not \_\_\_\_\_, but His disciples), He left Judea and departed again to Galilee."

**23-24.** Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. For **John had not yet been thrown into prison**.

- **Matthew 4:12** "Now when Jesus heard that \_\_\_\_\_ had been put in \_\_\_\_\_, He departed to Galilee."
- **Luke 3:19-20** "But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him (John the Baptist) concerning Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, also added this above all, that he shut \_\_\_\_\_ up in \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "JOHN had not yet been THROWN into PRISON"** - John the Baptist preached against King Herod and "all the evils which Herod had done," including the fact that Herod was sleeping with his own brother's wife (Herodias). In order to shut him up, Herod put John in prison, and later had him beheaded.

**25-26.** Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about **purification**. 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!"

- **John 2:6** "Now there were six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece."
- **Malachi 3:3** "And He will sit as a smelter and \_\_\_\_\_ of silver, and He will \_\_\_\_\_ the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "PURIFICATION"** - This refers to the various laws and regulations the Jews had for cleansing, either from disease or from sin. Since it is used here in context with John and Jesus baptizing, it is referring to cleansing from SIN. John's baptism was SYMBOLIC of the Jewish washings of purification, and also of the cleansing from sin that would happen when the Messiah would come.

**Definition: "Behold, He is BAPTIZING"** - Jesus and His disciples were BAPTIZING people as "disciples" (followers) in the Jordan River, and again, this water baptism was ONLY SYMBOLIC. This was still **just a SYMBOL** of the willingness of the people to REPENT of their SINS. No one was then, or is now, SAVED by water baptism.

**27-29.** John answered and said, "A man can **RECEIVE** nothing unless **it has been given to him from heaven**. You yourselves bear me witness that **I said, 'I am not the Christ'**, but, 'I have been sent before Him.' **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."

- **I Corinthians 4:7** "For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not \_\_\_\_\_ [from God]? Now if you did indeed \_\_\_\_\_ it, why do you glory as if you had not received it?"
- **Hebrews 5:4** "And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_, just as Aaron was."

**Definition: "He who has the BRIDE is the BRIDEGROOM"** - Jesus is the bridegroom and the church (all true Believers as a GROUP) is the "bride." John the Baptist recognizes that he is merely the "friend of the bridegroom" or "best man." He has told everyone all along that he himself is NOT the Christ.

- **Read Matthew 25:1-13** "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the \_\_\_\_\_. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: "Behold, the \_\_\_\_\_ is coming; go out to meet Him!" (Verse 10) "And while they went to buy, the \_\_\_\_\_ came, and those who were \_\_\_\_\_ went in with Him to the \_\_\_\_\_; and the door was shut."

**Definition: "Behold, the BRIDEGROOM is COMING"** - Jesus told this parable (story) to illustrate what it will be like **when He returns again**. The "ten virgins" were the maids of honor waiting for the groom to appear for the wedding, and they represent those in the churches today, both real Christians and professing Christians. The "foolish virgins" represent those who are in Christian churches today, perhaps even active members, but who have never **really been born again** ("Christians" in name only). The "wise virgins" with "oil in their lamps" represent the TRUE CHRISTIANS who have the Holy Spirit (oil is used in the Bible to represent the Holy Spirit). Remember, Jesus, in John 3:3,6 & 8, said that we must be BORN AGAIN, and also called it **being BORN of the SPIRIT**. When Jesus returns for the "Rapture" of the church, these church members **will NOT be READY**, and **Jesus will only take the TRUE BELIEVERS** with Him to heaven for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (see Revelation 19:7-9).

- **I Thessalonians 4:16-17** "For the \_\_\_\_\_ Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ will rise first (Christians who have died will re RESURRECTED). Then we who are \_\_\_\_\_ and remain shall be \_\_\_\_\_ up (taken up) together with them in the clouds to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ in the air. And thus we shall \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Matthew 9:15** "And Jesus said to them, 'Can the friends of the \_\_\_\_\_ mourn (be sad) as long as the \_\_\_\_\_ is with them? But the days will come when the \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_ away from them, and then they will fast.'"

**30-32. "He must increase, but I must decrease.** 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. And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony."

- **John 8:23** "And He said to them, 'You are from \_\_\_\_\_; I am from \_\_\_\_\_. You are of this \_\_\_\_\_; I am \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ world.'"
- **John 1:15** "John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is \_\_\_\_\_ before me.'"

**Definition: "He is PREFERRED before me"** - Literal meaning is "He ranks higher than I." Because **Jesus RANKS HIGHER than John**, that is **WHY** he says that **Jesus must increase** (have PRIORITY, be first place in everything), and **John himself must "decrease"** (step back out of the limelight, fade away). This principle is true in our lives as well. We must give Jesus **FIRST PLACE** in everything we do, and we must "get out of the driver's seat" of our lives and **ALLOW JESUS to be LORD of OUR LIVES**.

- **Colossians 1:15-18** "He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the invisible God, the \_\_\_\_\_ over all creation. For by \_\_\_\_\_ all things were \_\_\_\_\_ that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were \_\_\_\_\_ through Him and \_\_\_\_\_ Him. And He is \_\_\_\_\_ all things, and in Him all things consist (hold together). And He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body, the church, who is the beginning (origin, source), the \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_, that in all things He may have the preeminence (first place)."
- **Matthew 6:33** "But seek \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_, and all these things shall be added (given) to you."
- **Luke 9:23** "Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me (to be a disciple, to follow Jesus), let him \_\_\_\_\_ himself, and take up his cross \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ Me.'"

**Definition: "LET him DENY himself"** - Jesus said we must DENY OURSELVES to truly be followers (disciples) of His. To deny yourself, **you must PUT ASIDE your OWN DESIRES**, and TAKE UP "your cross," which means to TAKE UP, or "**ACCEPT THE ASSIGNMENT**" of DOING GOD'S WILL for your life. God has a PLAN and a PURPOSE for YOUR LIFE, if you will only yield and **submit yourself** to His will for you.

- **Colossians 1:10** "That you may have a walk (lifestyle) worthy of the Lord, fully \_\_\_\_\_ Him, being fruitful in every \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Galatians 2:20** "I have been \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but \_\_\_\_\_ lives in me; and the \_\_\_\_\_ which I now \_\_\_\_\_ in the flesh (in this human body) I \_\_\_\_\_ by faith in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, who loved me and gave Himself for me."
- **Matthew 5:16** "Let your light so shine before \_\_\_\_\_, that they may \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ your Father in heaven."
- **Ephesians 2:10** "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for (for the purpose of) good \_\_\_\_\_, which God has \_\_\_\_\_ that we should walk in them."
- **II Corinthians 7:1** "Therefore, having these promises, Beloved, let us cleanse \_\_\_\_\_ from all \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, perfecting \_\_\_\_\_ in the fear of God."

**33-34.** "He who has received His testimony has **certified that God is true**. For He whom God has sent **speaks the words of God**, for **God does not give the Spirit by measure**."

- **John 6:27** "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to \_\_\_\_\_ life, which the Son of Man will \_\_\_\_\_ you, because God the \_\_\_\_\_ has set His \_\_\_\_\_ on Him."

**Definition: "Has set His seal on Him"** - This is the same as "**certified that God is true**". When we send for a "certified copy" of something, it always has the official SEAL of whatever government agency has the document on file. In Bible times, the kings and governors would put their official seals on important documents and laws. God has put His SEAL of APPROVAL on Jesus, to show that He is the true and genuine

Messiah. Jesus also said that He (Jesus) **certified that God the Father is true**, and that He speaks only the words of God.

**Definition: "God does NOT give the Spirit by measure"** - Jesus is the only One who has ever been completely filled with (under the control of) the Holy Spirit **at all times**. God gives us **the same Holy Spirit**, and "without measure" (He doesn't just give us PART of the Spirit), yet you and I, as imperfect, sinful human beings, are NEVER filled with the Spirit at ALL TIMES-we go back and forth from Spirit-filled to being "in the flesh" or carnal.

**35. "The Father LOVES the Son, and has GIVEN all things into His hand.** 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.**"

- **Matthew 17:5** "While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a \_\_\_\_\_ came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My \_\_\_\_\_, in whom I am well \_\_\_\_\_. Hear Him!'"
- **Matthew 28:18** "Then Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All \_\_\_\_\_ has been \_\_\_\_\_ to Me in \_\_\_\_\_ and on \_\_\_\_\_.'"

**Definition: "The WRATH of God ABIDES on him"** - **The WRATH of God** is God's ANGER against SIN - the PUNISHMENT that WE DESERVE for violating God's laws and falling short of His perfect standards. God's wrath and punishment for sin ABIDES or REMAINS on anyone who REJECTS God's ONLY WAY of escape from that wrath, which is through Jesus.

- **Romans 5:9** "Much more then, having now been \_\_\_\_\_ by His \_\_\_\_\_, we shall be \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ through Him (Jesus)."
- **Ephesians 5:6** "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ comes upon the sons of disobedience."
- **Read Romans 1:18-32** (Verse 18) "For the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is revealed from \_\_\_\_\_ against all \_\_\_\_\_ and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness." (Vs. 29-32) "Being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, \_\_\_\_\_, covetousness, maliciousness; full of \_\_\_\_\_, murder, strife, \_\_\_\_\_, evil mindedness; they are whisperers (gossips), backbiters, haters of God, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, boasters, inventors of \_\_\_\_\_ things, \_\_\_\_\_ to parents, undiscerning, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, unforgiving, \_\_\_\_\_, who, knowing the righteous \_\_\_\_\_ of God, that those who \_\_\_\_\_ such things are \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, not only do the same, but also \_\_\_\_\_ of those who practice them."
- **I Thessalonians 5:9** "For God did not appoint us to \_\_\_\_\_, but to obtain \_\_\_\_\_ through our Lord \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "SONS of DISOBEDIENCE"** - According to Ephesians 2:2, the "sons of disobedience" are UNBELIEVERS; those who are still under Satan's control, and **have NOT been born again**. In Ephesians 2:3 they are also called "**children of WRATH**". Since they have NOT accepted God's way of forgiveness for their sins, they have nothing to look forward to except the WRATH OF GOD and eternity in HELL.

- **Ephesians 2:3** "Among whom also we \_\_\_\_\_ once \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature children of \_\_\_\_\_, just as the others."