

March 10, 2019am – Walking With Jesus (Gospel of John)

Pt. 10 – Love, Light, Loyalty, Life - John 3:16-36

Walking With Jesus through the Gospel of John	John 3:16-36 Love Light Loyalty Life	What does the story of Nicodemus say to us? A right standing with God does not come through 1. correct beliefs, or 2. correct moral conduct, but 3. through a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
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YouTube Video 22:21 - 25:20 The Gospel of John

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47OkuvT5JFo&t=218s>

Love, Light, Loyalty, Life

John 3:16-21...

LOVE:

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The Seven Wonders of John 3:16. https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/studyguide_jhn/jhn_3.cfm

God	The Almighty Authority
So loved the world	The Mightiest Motive
That He gave His only begotten Son	The Greatest Gift
That whosoever	The Widest Welcome
Believes in Him	The Simplest Plan
Should not perish	The Divine Deliverance
But have everlasting life	The Priceless Possession

LIGHT:

¹⁹ This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

John 3:22-30...

LOYALTY:

²² After this, (the encounter with Nicodemus) *Jesus and His disciples went to the Judean countryside, where He spent time with them and baptized.*²³ *John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water there. People were coming and being baptized,* ²⁴ *since John had not yet been thrown into prison.* ²⁵ *Then a dispute arose between John's disciples and a Jew about purification.* ²⁶ *So they came to John and told him, "Rabbi, the one you testified about, and who was with you across the Jordan, is baptizing—and everyone is going to him."* ²⁷ *John responded, "No one can receive anything unless it has been given to him from heaven.* ²⁸ *You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I've been sent ahead of Him.'* ²⁹ *He who has the bride is the groom. But the groom's friend, who stands by and listens for Him, rejoices greatly at the groom's voice. So this joy of mine is complete.* ³⁰ ***He must increase, but I must decrease.*** "

a. **All are coming to Him!** John's disciples seem alarmed, but it didn't bother John one bit. John would not allow envy or the fickle crowds make him forget his mission: to announce that the Messiah had come, and then to step back.

b. **The friend of the bridegroom:** John is the "best man" at the "wedding" between Jesus and Jesus' followers. In the Jewish wedding customs of that day, the **friend of the bridegroom** arranged many of the details of the wedding and brought the bride to the groom.

c. **Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled:** John the Baptist lost his congregation - and *he was happy about it!* John was happy because he lost his congregation to Jesus.

d. **He must increase, but I must decrease:** This should be the motto of every Christian, especially leaders among God's people. Jesus should become greater and more visible, and the servant should become less and less visible. https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/studyguide_jhn/jhn_3.cfm

Contrast between John the Baptist & Jesus (Borchert. NAC Commentary on John. P. 189)

John is a witness....Jesus is the Light

John is a voice....Jesus is the Word

John baptizes with water....Jesus baptizes with the Spirit

In John 1:28...John clearly states he is not the light, but the Light is coming and has come....Jesus

The symbol of marriage is a striking picture of the relationship between Christ and His Church.

The bridegroom prepares the way and then leads the groom into the bridal chamber. John the Baptist was a type of Bridegroom, that prepared the way for the Bride (the church) to come to Christ.

"The friend of the bridegroom: John explained to his followers that he was like the best man at a wedding; he isn't the bridegroom. He isn't to be the focus of attention, but to supervise the bringing of two people together.

i. In the Jewish wedding customs of that day, the **friend of the bridegroom** arranged many of the details of the wedding and brought the bride to the groom. Nevertheless, the **friend of the bridegroom** was never the focus of attention, and wanted it that way.

ii. The fact that the bridegroom represents Jesus is another way the Bible says Jesus is God. In the Old Testament, it was only *Yahweh* who was the husband of Israel. "The Baptist would have been well aware that in the Old Testament Israel is regarded as the bride of Jehovah." (Morris <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/john-3/>)

LIFE:

³¹ *The One who comes from above is above all. The one who is from the earth is earthly and speaks in earthly terms. The One who comes from heaven is above all.* ³² *He testifies to what He has seen and heard, and yet no one accepts His testimony.* ³³ *The one who has accepted His testimony has affirmed that God is true.* ³⁴ *For the One whom God sent speaks God's words, since He lives the Spirit without measure.* ³⁵ *The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hands.* ³⁶ ***The one who believes in the Son has eternal life***, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him. (CSB)

Supremacy of Christ - Our supreme loyalty must go to Christ

John 'endorsed' Jesus as supreme, the authority of all truth and light. It is in Christ that true love, light and life can be ours.

Jesus Is God's Supreme Representative (3:31-36)

"This elevation of Jesus is what is right. The passage now explains why John the Baptizer must decrease but Jesus must increase. The chapter lists five reasons for the supremacy of Jesus, therefore proving that Jesus must increase and all glory must be directed to him.

Christ's heavenly origin (3:31). According to verse 31, he who comes from above is above all. Jesus is God come in the flesh. His heavenly origin places him above all creation. Jesus came from heaven and spoke with a higher authority than that of earth.

Christ's heavenly testimony (3:32-33). Jesus spoke with firsthand observation and knowledge. Since Jesus is from heaven, he can speak from knowledge, not theory. Yet again John emphasizes the sad news. Jesus is testifying about heavenly things, but no one receives his testimony. How foolish to reject the message from the one who truly knows heavenly things! He is the only one who knows about heavenly things. But those who do receive Christ's testimony sets his seal to this: that God is true. By accepting Jesus' testimony as to what he has seen and heard, the believer has certified that God is truthful (see NIV). Jesus so completely says and does all that God says and does, and only what God says and does, that to believe Jesus is to believe God. Conversely, not to believe Jesus is to call God a liar.

Christ's heavenly words (3:34). Jesus spoke the very words of God. He speaks God's words because he has the Spirit without limitation. God attested to Jesus by the Spirit (cf. John 1:32-33). No one else has this testimony. No one else has this proof. He is the very fullness of God, and from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace (John 1:14-16; cf. Colossians 2:9). Jesus is more than a prophet. He is also the distributor of the Spirit, as will be described later in this gospel (cf. John 14-16).

Christ's supreme authority (3:35). The Father has given Jesus all authority. The Father loves the Son and has given ALL things into his hand. Ridderbos makes a terrific point about the relationship of God's love for the Son. "Therefore, the Father loves the Son is a pronouncement about both the nature and the authority of Jesus' mission. With regard to the nature of that mission, as the Son he represents the love of God. In him and in his mission God is presented in the world as the God of love. With regard to Jesus' authority, it is he in whom the victorious fullness of God's love makes its way and into whose hand, for the sake of that revelation, all things have been given." Since he has all authority, then all things must glorify him and all things must decrease in his presence. He must increase, we must decrease.

Christ's authorship of life (3:36). The Son is where life is at. If faith in the Son is the only way to inherit eternal life, and is commanded by God himself, then failure to trust him is as much disobedience as unbelief. Notice that belief and obedience are used interchangeably in this verse. This shows our observations throughout this chapter have been correct. Genuine belief is the new birth, life transformation, so that we will desire Jesus. We will desire to obey him and desire to flee from sin, rebellion, and disobedience. True belief as seen the new birth leads to eternal life. John ends with the thought he declared in verse 18. We are the condemned. Jesus did not come to condemn the world because we were already condemned by our actions. Jesus came to rescue the world. But if we do not have a new birth through Jesus, the wrath of God remains on us. We are still condemned and therefore wrath still rests upon us. We need to hear this verdict upon us also. The wrath of God rests on us until we come to Jesus for salvation." <https://westpalmbeachchurchofchrist.com/new-testament/john-new-testament/he-must-increase.html>

This passage of scripture is a 'must read' ...

...you must be born again (John 3:7).

...so must the Son of Man be lifted up (John 3:14).

...He must increase (John 3:30).

... I must decrease (John 3:30).

We must follow the correct path on the road of life. That path is through Jesus. We must be loyal to Christ and then His love, light and life are ours.

Authentic & Genuine Followers of Christ