

The Best-Man's Testimony

John 3:22-36 ²²After this, Jesus and His disciples went into the Judean countryside, where He spent some time with them and baptized. ²³Now John was also baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because the water was plentiful there, and people kept coming to be baptized. ²⁴(For John had not yet been thrown into prison.) ²⁵A dispute arose between John's disciples and a certain Jew over the issue of ceremonial washing. ²⁶So John's disciples came to him and said, "Look, Rabbi, the One who was with you beyond the Jordan, the One you testified about—He is baptizing, and everyone is going to Him." ²⁷John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but am sent ahead of Him.' ²⁹The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom stands and listens for him, and is overjoyed to hear the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰He must increase; I must decrease. ³¹The One who comes from above is above all. The one who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks as one from the earth. The One who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He testifies to what He has seen and heard, yet no one accepts His testimony. ³³Whoever accepts His testimony has certified that God is truthful. ³⁴For the One whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in His hands. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever rejects the Son will not see life. Instead, the wrath of God remains on him." (BSB)

I. What led up to John giving his **testimony** about who Jesus is?

- A. Jesus had begun his **ministry** and was drawing larger crowds than John. V. 22-26
- B. John proclaimed that he, John, was not the **Messiah**. V.27-28
- C. He stated that he was only the **friend** of the bridegroom not the bridegroom. V. 29
- D. He then stated that he must decrease and that the ministry of Jesus Christ needs to **increase**. V. 30

II. What was John's testimony about Jesus Christ?

- A. Jesus came from **heaven** not from earth. V. 31
- B. He alone has come from heaven to earth to **testify** about what the heavenly realms are like. V. 32
- C. His testimony is the testimony of **God** Himself! V. 33-34
- D. **All things** are placed in the hands of the Son of God. V. 35
- E. Only acceptances of the Son will **save you**! V. 36

III. Let's interpret this through the parable of the Sower.

- A. A **hard** heart will wonder why we talk about what dead people wrote down. It has no bearing on our life at all.
- B. A **rocky** heart will question why we need to talk about God's wrath. Doesn't God love everyone and that everyone goes to heaven when they die?
- C. A **weedy** heart will wonder why there is no practical application taught today. Just believing in Jesus Christ doesn't seem to benefit anything.
- D. A **healthy** heart will look for areas that they have not let Jesus be Lord of and will continue to strive to let Him rule in all aspects of their life. "He must increase, I must decrease...".