

## The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S5E12

### The Best Man Of The Bridegroom - (John 3:22-36)

**Description – Today we're looking at the forerunner of the Messiah, the best man to the bridegroom, and the handoff of one ministry to another.**

#### John 3:22-30

<sup>22</sup> After this, Jesus and his disciples went to the Judean countryside, where he spent time with them and baptized.

<sup>23</sup> John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water there. People were coming and being baptized, <sup>24</sup> since John had not yet been thrown into prison.

<sup>25</sup> Then a dispute arose between John's disciples and a Jew about purification. <sup>26</sup> 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."

<sup>27</sup> John responded, "No one can receive anything unless it has been given to him from heaven. <sup>28</sup> You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I've been sent ahead of him.' <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> He must increase, but I must decrease."

Recapping baptism:

The disciples of John are getting concerned that those who John had baptized are now going to Jesus and are beginning to follow him and be baptized by him.

Dr. Stephen Carlson - "Lost in Translation" - book on how the word "baptizo" was wrongly transliterated instead of being translated properly. No one would be confused on the "mode" of baptism if we had just directly translated the word as it should have been, "immersed" or "dunked"

<https://www.amazon.com/Lost-Translation-Baptism-Transliteration-Versions/dp/B0D4Z79D6S/>

If we don't put in "baptism" in the bible, if we'd just put "immersion" or "dunked" or "submerged" we wouldn't have the problems we do today.

John decides to move his ministry to Aenon near Salim, near the ancient city of Beit She'an.

John moves his ministry from the south to the North, closer to the Galilean countryside. Why did he move there? V. 23 tells us, "...because there was plenty of water there."

The reason we don't sprinkle today compared to the episcopal church or catholic church is that it removes the picture that Jesus portrays in Baptism. His death, burial and resurrection.

The Didache, a pastoral handbook from the 1st century, gives outlines on how to baptize. Immersion was preferred, but in very rare circumstances it was allowed to have water poured over their heads 3 times, once each for the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Again, this was rare, and only happened where there was no access to water.

These Mindians - followers of John who did not give their lives to Jesus. We have an example of this in Acts 19:1-6, where Paul encounters disciples of John who didn't hear about Jesus.

### **Acts 19:1-6**

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples <sup>2</sup> and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

"No," they told him, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

<sup>3</sup> "Into what then were you baptized?" he asked them.

"Into John's baptism," they replied.

<sup>4</sup> Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus."

<sup>5</sup> When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy. <sup>7</sup> Now there were about twelve men in all.

Back to John and his words in John 3:29-30

### **John 3:29-30**

<sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> He must increase, but I must decrease."

When you're examining a parable, you must remember several things:

1. A parable has one main driving point.
  - a. There may be ancillary points, but they are not the main point of the parable.
2. It's important to understand the symbolism and imagery.

So in John 3:29 we have to define a few things:

Who is the Groom? - Jesus the messiah.  
Who is the Bride? - The church, God's people  
Who is the friend of the Groom? - John

John is showing that his role is not to be the main attraction, he's simply pointing people to Jesus.

Example from the OT, Moses acting as the "Best man" or friend of the groom:

### **Exodus 24:3**

<sup>3</sup> Moses came and told the people all the commands of the LORD and all the ordinances. Then all the people responded with a single voice, "We will do everything that the LORD has commanded."

Friend of the groom - Moses

God's covenant with Israel - a marriage ceremony in the wilderness.

Moses comes down from the mountain with God's law, His covenant, Moses says, will you accept this? And all the people say, "I do."

John the Baptist is giving every man and woman a model to follow for those who would go into ministry.

Our #1 job is to let go of self, of anything prideful or promoting ourselves, to point to Jesus.

It's self-abdication, you deny yourself and making a name for yourself, to renounce or reject.

Our task is to build up His Kingdom, not our own little fleeting fiefdoms.

### **John 3:31-36**

<sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> He testifies to what he has seen and heard, and yet no one accepts his testimony. <sup>33</sup> The one who has accepted his testimony has affirmed that God is true. <sup>34</sup> For the one whom God sent speaks God's words, since he gives the Spirit without measure. <sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hands. <sup>36</sup> 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.

Scholars believe that John 3:31-36 is a shift where John the Gospel writer is giving commentary, writing and explaining what just happened, with the encounters with Nicodemus and Jesus and John the Baptist and his disciples.

The Father gives the Spirit to the Son without measure, it's not a little bit here and a little bit there, or that His Spirit could be withdrawn from the Son, like we saw with King Saul.

Why? Because those who believe in the Son have eternal life right now, in this very moment. You are different because of what you believe.