

I. AFTER THE CONVERSATION

A. We will begin with “After these things...”

1. So much had happened!
 - a. John bore witness of Him in Jordan (1:28)
 - b. The next day John saw Jesus (1:29)
 - c. The next day John stood with Andrew and John (1:35)
 - d. That night they stayed with Jesus (1:39)
 - e. The next day Andrew found Simon Peter (1:41)
 - f. The next day Jesus found Philip (1:43)
 - g. That day Philip found Nathanael (1:45)
 - h. Three days later was the marriage in Cana of Galilee (2:1)
 - i. After that, He went down to Capernaum (2:12)
 - j. After not many days, He went up to Jerusalem (2:13)
 - k. He drove out the money changers (2:14)
 - l. During Passover, He did many miracles (2:23)
 - m. In the feast day, He knew the hearts of men (2:25)
 - n. That night, Nicodemus came to talk (3:1)
2. After ALL of those things!
3. Chapter 3 of 21, not even 1/7th done!
4. John 21:25 – “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.”

B. What a blessing for Nicodemus

1. A one-on-one conversation with Jesus
2. You can have one too! 😊
3. He’s ready to hear, and ready to speak!
 - a. How does He hear? With our prayers!
 - b. How does He speak? Through His Word!
4. And even more!
 - a. I Corinthians 13:12 – “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”
 - b. EVER closer
 - c. Face-to-face!

C. Scratching the Surface

1. I feel that we could spend the rest of our lives studying
2. The Word of God is an inexhaustible treasure trove!
3. New manna from heaven every day we look into it!

D. READ John 3:22-24

II. IN THE COUNTRYSIDE (VS. 22)

A. Jesus and His Disciples

1. At this time, they became inseparable
2. Everywhere He went, they'd go with Him
3. Did you ever have a time in YOUR life when everything was "Yes, Lord"?
 - a. No matter what He said
 - b. You said, "Yes, sir!"
4. Follow, follow, I would follow Jesus
 - a. Anywhere, everywhere, I would follow on!
 - b. I wish it were always true in my life
 - c. I want to be a sheep, not a goat!
 - d. The shepherd leads sheep.
 - e. Better not turn your back on a goat 😊

B. He tarried in the countryside

1. "In the LAND of Judaea"
 - a. Not in the cities
 - b. Not among the wealthy
 - c. Out with the common folk, in the fields, with the people
 - d. Look at vs. 22 – "He tarried WITH them"
 - e. He is not just a Savior for the Large Crowd
 - f. He is the Savior of the Individual.
 - g. He loves PEOPLE!
 - i. We should follow His example
 - ii. Old story about the hippie walking into church
 - iii. Story about the youth leader praying for Eddie Van Halen
2. He Tarried There
 - a. That means He stayed "some days"
 - b. He called His creation "good" so perhaps he was enjoying the rural areas, the slower pace.
 - c. Now we think with our microwave and smartphone mindset
 - i. Wouldn't He be more efficient in the biggest cities?
 - ii. Was He just taking a break?
 - d. God does not work on our schedule
 - i. No matter how much we wish it
 - ii. Bro. Mike Meredith prayed for his parents over 20 years!
 - iii. God knows the matter from beginning to end
 - iv. Psalm 90:9 – "For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told."
3. Baptized
 - a. Note John 4:1-2
 - i. Jesus baptized not, but his disciples
 - ii. A blanket statement comparing the number of disciples
 - iii. But isn't that a contradiction with Chapter 3?

- b. Of course, not – This IS the work of a church
 - i. Jesus was the pastor
 - ii. The disciples were baptized believers
 - iii. And they were performing the Great Commission
 - iv. Even before it had been given!
- c. The Great Commission
 - i. Three Parts
 - ii. In Four Spheres of Influence
 - iii. What are the three parts?
 - Souls Saved
 - Saved Baptized
 - Baptized Discipled!
 - iv. What are the four spheres?
 - People where we live (our Jerusalem)
 - People where we don't live (uttermost part)
 - People like us (Judaea)
 - People not like us (Samaria)
 - v. Doesn't leave anyone out, does it?
- d. They were doing His work (to seek and save that which was lost)
 - i. They were doing it in His name
 - ii. They were His disciples
 - iii. He receives glory in the church
 - iv. It was perfectly correct to say that He baptized
 - v. It was HIS work to do
 - vi. And HE is STILL WORKING TODAY!

III. ON THE CONCEPT (VS. 23)

A. Much water there

1. Given as the direct reason why John the Baptist was there
2. The depth of the water
 - a. Some have tried to locate this spot
 - b. Either to prove or disprove its depth
 - c. Joshua 15:32 – “And Lebaoth, and Shilhim, and Ain, and Rimmon: all the cities are twenty and nine, with their villages:”
 - d. Sound similar but hardly conclusive
3. Here's how *I* know the water was deep:
 - a. Vs. 23 says there was MUCH water there
 - b. Matthew 3:16 – “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:”
 - c. I know the word baptidzo means fully whelmed or dipped

- d. And know it's a picture of the Gospel!
- B. Wasn't the Ministry of John over?
 - 1. Heard a preacher preach through Acts 19
 - a. He said that John's baptism was different
 - b. I disagree!
 - c. He said he didn't know if they were saved...
 - d. Read Acts 19:1-7
 - 2. Let's take a look!
 - a. John baptized unto repentance before Christ, which I believe still looked "forward" to the cross, just like Abraham did.
 - b. After Christ arrived, John the Baptist would likely have begun baptizing "in Jesus' name." We see his attitude when Jesus shows up in John 1:27-34. No reason to think that he would muddle on ignoring the clear testimony of God.
 - c. None of the Apostles apparently required any other baptism (or re-baptism) throughout the book of Acts.
 - d. The twelve disciples of John were fairly ignorant of the basics of the Christian Walk. "We have not so much as heard..."
 - e. They DID get baptized there in Acts 19 in the name of Jesus Christ,
 - f. They were baptized unto "John's baptism" (not repentance)
 - 3. People CAME to hear John's preaching
 - a. Preaching still works today
 - b. I Corinthians 1:21 – “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
 - c. But preaching is not just the preacher's job 😊
 - d. II Corinthians 5:18 – “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;”
 - e. We must all take part in the ministry! Reconciling lost sinners to a thrice-Holy God!

IV. NOT YET CAST (VS. 24)

- A. Occupy till I come
 - 1. John the Baptist didn't quit preaching
 - 2. And he didn't quit baptizing
- B. He was going to lose his head
 - 1. But he hadn't lost it yet
 - 2. So he kept on working!
- C. Why?
 - 1. Because he had time!
 - 2. And time is that resource forever in shortest supply!

3. Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring!

V. AND THEY CAME (VS. 23)

A. Come to Him and be Saved Today!