



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 3:22-30
From Sermon 5.7.23

Read *John 3:22-30*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Our mock courtroom has already seen much drama and many witnesses. A common practice in real court cases is recalling a witness to support or refute a previous witness. This happens in John 3, as John the Baptist is called back to the stand. He also is unteaching his disciples who had a false doctrine and then teaching them truth. John reminds them that Kingdom ministry is not a competition. Everything is unfolding according to God's divine plan. All focus should be on Jesus now.

1. How did Jesus describe John and his ministry? See also *Matthew 11:11 & 14*. Jesus called the John the greatest man who ever lived. He is the Elijah of the New Testament—a transition character who ushers in the Age of Grace while closing the Age of Law.

2. With that kind of reference from the I AM, what potential sins/traits would John face? Various answers. Conceit, Self-elevation, pride, privilege, ego, ...[early on, some of that seen in the Apostles]

2a. However, that was not the case with John the Baptist. What godly traits did he exhibit? Humility, submission, hard, dirty work, being an example, & boldness.

3. Discuss the use of the wedding analogy. Identify each member of the wedding party, the various components, and what each represents:

- Groom/Bridegroom: Jesus
- Bride: The Church/the Elect
- Best Man: John the Baptist
- Engagement: Prearranged before the foundation of the world
- Wedding: The Rapture/Resurrection
- Reception: Wedding Supper of the Lamb

4. John models godly what godly leadership in the church should be. Add to that, the admonitions of Jesus (Read *Matthew 20:25-26*), Paul's instructions to the Ephesian elders (Read *Acts 20:28-32*), and Peter's plea in *1 Peter 5:1-6*. What should a Pastor/Elder be and what should he not be? Be: Humble. Accountable. Available. Faithful. Steadfast. Alert. Word-driven. Patient. Honest. Caring. Fellow Servant/Co-laborer. Kingdom minded. Not Be: Prideful. Entitled. Arrogant. Business modeled. Civil government modeled. Concerned with numbers. Worldly.

5. John's boldness is seen in his faithfulness in confronting the culture. But this requires a biblical balance. In this pastoral duty, what would be too little? Like the Corinthian church and several in Revelation, not calling sin "sin" & not dealing with the world creeping into the church. What would be too much? Making this the main focus. The pastor/elder has several duties far more important than this: Preparing, preaching, teaching, caring, administration.

6. Even John had weaknesses and doubts. Read *Matthew 11:2-3*. What was Jesus' response and encouragement to John? See *Matthew 11:4-5*. Remember who I AM, not who you are, where you are, or what may happen.