

19 - The Supremacy of The Son

REVIEW / INTRODUCTION

Last week we saw Jesus and His disciples baptising people right down the river from John The Baptist. The followers of John the Baptist were jealous and wanted John to do something about Jesus who was encroaching on his fame and ministry. John did not buy into the temptation of jealousy and the spirit of competition. Instead John said of Jesus; ***“He must increase, but I must decrease.”***

John’s disciples wanted John, who was a mere human to give *the left foot of fellowship* to Jesus who is God’s Son and a member of the Trinity. This is the context that continues into our text for today. Jesus is from above and John is from earth. But John’s disciples tempted him to see Jesus as the competition.

READING THE TEXT

John 3:31-36 ESV

³¹ He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly

way. He who comes from heaven is above all.³² He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony.³³ Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.³⁴ For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

PREACHING THE TEXT

John 3:31-36 ESV

³¹ He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all.

HE WHO COMES FROM ABOVE

Remember this passage is about John's followers trying to get him to compete with Jesus. John does not fall for it. Speaking by The Spirit the author of this book states that Jesus Christ has come from above. Jesus is God with

skin and bones. And if Jesus is God in the flesh then to compete with Him is ridiculous. The outcome of competing with God's Son is that God wins and we lose.

HE IS ABOVE ALL

The text says; ***“He is above all”*** which means Jesus The Son of God comes from heaven. He outranks every single person on the face of the earth. There is no king that has a greater kingdom! There is no other president that presides over angels and the Heavenly Bodies! There is no Supreme Court that outranks His Supremacy!

He is above the Pharisees and Sadducees. He is above all Kings and Prophets. He is above John The Baptist and He is above all of us. We must not put ourselves in a position in which we are in competition with our Creator. But that is often what our pride sets us up to be. What are some ways that we are tempted to compete with our Creator?

COMPETITION WITH OUR CREATOR

When we think we know better how to run our life than Jesus, we are in competition with our Creator.

When we come up with preferences and put more weight on our preferences than on discerning the will of God, then we compete with our creator.

When people put Jesus Christ the Son of God in the same league as Mohammed or Gandhi or Buddha, we are setting up mere mortals on equal footing as their creator.

The author of this book is telling us that there is no way that John or any of us can compete with the Son of God. He comes from a place that we have never been. He is greater than us. Our calling is to glorify and obey Him, not compete with Him.

HE WHO IS OF THE EARTH

The Gospel Author goes on to speak of the one who is ***of the earth***. The Author of this gospel tells us that John The Baptist claimed to be no more than a common man like any other. Yes God had given him an honored calling. But John is not God. John is not from above. John speaks with the limitations of a human.

REPEAT JESUS IS FROM ABOVE

John goes on to restate the truth that Jesus is from above. This *restating* is one of the ways that a Hebrew Author writes 10 exclamation points.

SLIDE = Jesus Is From Above !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

When something is restated in scripture, pay attention. It is highlighted, underlined and double emphasized.

³² *He(Jesus) bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony.*

Remember the context. This is about people tempting John to be jealous and compete with Jesus in ministry. So the author of this gospel continues showing how ridiculous competing with Jesus is for anyone.

John heard a voice from heaven and functioned as a prophet. But Jesus is a member of the Trinity who commissioned John and gave John his marching orders.

Jesus who brings words and instructions straight from heaven speaks of things that He has seen and heard in the presence of the Trinity.

EYE WITNESS OF HEAVEN

From eternity past Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He existed in the presence of our Great God and Father in Heaven. Jesus the Son of God exists as the radiance of The Father's glory. Jesus Christ is The Father's visible radiance and glory.

I would love to highlight the glory that Jesus had for eternity with His Father. This is the greatness that we can apply to Jesus as we think about Him and pray and worship Him. Listen to this Psalm written to our Trinitarian God. This is written to the Father, Son and Spirit.

Psalm 24:1

[*The King of Glory*] [*A Psalm of David.*] The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

Psalm 24:7-10

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. ^{vs8} Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD,

mighty in battle! ^{vs9} Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. ^{vs 10} Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! Selah

Did you catch the glory and greatness of God The Trinity in this passage? ***“Lift up your heads O gates”***is in the context of God’s people gathered for worship in the great temple of God. The gate have to lift up because God is too big and His glory is too expansive to be contained under a gate or in a temple. When you think of Jesus and The Trinity think of a big God.

OUR BIG GOD

Because our God and Savior is this immense and can fill the whole universe with His presence, know that He is greater than your problems. Lift up your heads O gates because our God of glory Jesus Christ can come in a He is larger than your addiction. He is larger than your loneliness and feelings of worthlessness. You know the King of glory that spans the universe. That makes you worthwhile, capable and significant through Jesus Christ.

Don't worship a puny God. Worship God for who He really is; the Lord of glory.

This king of glory came down for the purpose of telling people what God is like. The Son lived as a member of the Trinity in the presence of The Father and Spirit. He was tasked by The Father to come tell us about Heaven and about God's plan of saving people from their sin so that people can join The The Father and Son in eternal life.

The text says;

NO ONE RECEIVES HIS TESTIMONY

....***No one received His testimony.*** Who are 5 of the most popular believers of all time? Imagine if Martin Luther, Charles Wesley, John Calvin and George Whitfield suddenly came back to life for one final gathering. They announced and advertised they would be in a stadium beginning on a certain date and time. And when they took the platform, the seats are empty.

The Author is telling us that many people foolishly rejected and ignored the greatest living person history has ever seen. The caesars and Pharaohs claimed to be gods.

But Jesus Christ really is God! They could have spoken with Him face to face but they were too busy or preoccupied with their own agenda to come see the King of Heaven that came down to reveal The Father.

³³ ***Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.***

RECEIVING TESTIMONY SEALS AND AUTHENTICATES

The Author says to everyone in this room and everyone who has ever read this text that those who receive Jesus Christ sets their seal. What does setting your seal mean?

SETTING YOUR SEAL

In the time in which this was written government officials and kings made a seal that represented their sworn testimony. They carved a decorative mark that was registered to their name. And when they dipped their seal or signet ring into melted colored wax and sealed a document or envelope, this was their way of swearing a testimony that you are certain with all your being that what

you have sealed is true. They swore that this document was truthful and they put their reputation and perhaps even their life on the line by setting the seal.

Faith is our signet ring. The Holy Spirit is the colored wax. And when the Spirit of God delivers the faith to believe the words of Jesus, this is the sign that we have sworn our personal testimony and full commitment that God is true, and His Son is Jesus Christ raised from the dead.

³⁴ For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.

The context is comparing The Prophet John the Baptist with Jesus Christ who is God. The author is telling us something about which one of them has more of The Spirit's anointing.

HE WHOM GOD HAS SEND

The phrase ***“for he whom God has sent utters the words of God”*** combined with the words; ***“He gives His Spirit without measure”*** is a reference to the truth that the anointing and power of The Spirit is given to each

prophet God has sent in proportion to the greatness of the task God had given to that prophet or servant.

THE SPIRIT WITHOUT MEASURE

The prophets were given a measure of The Spirit but Jesus Christ was given access to the Spirit that can not be measured. He had a full dose of the Spirit's power because He is God and He has the highest calling in need of the greatest power.

³⁵ *The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.*

THE FATHER LOVES THE SON

The Father loved John the Baptist and entrusted some things into his hands. But he loved His own Son most and entrusted everything into His hands.

Our culture loves the idea of love. There are all kinds of chick flicks about the greatest love. Sometimes if I am in the right mood and I have used up all of my testosterone for the week I can be persuaded to watch one of these love stories with my wife. In the course of the movie there is always some woman that has been burned or abused

by some guy who is a dud. And then along comes the prince charming who she resists for a while. But eventually she falls in love and they live happily ever after. So we love a great love story.

There is no greater love than the love of the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. Their love and life and purpose is perfectly reflected in one another. Their love radiates such glory that it would blind the common man.

At the right time The Father turned over the creation and operating of the universe to His Son. The Father calls us to join Him in adoring and cherishing and cheering for His Son. He calls us to use our lives to shine a spotlight on the glory of His Son.

In other words God's plan is to exalt His Son in this time in every way. He loves His Son and wants to share His love and adoration of His Son with people.

THE RESULT OF THE FATHER'S LOVE

And Jesus is exalted the most when we receive Him as our Lord and Savior. Our statement when we receive Him is that we dare to trust Him with our very life and

eternity. And we will die for Him if necessary. That is our statement of love. We love Him so much that we refuse to deny Him or withhold our hearts from Him.

³⁶ ***Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.***

TO DISOBEY JESUS IS TO REJECT GOD AND HIS PLAN

In this passage you can see a strong connection between believing and obeying. The central point is that the way we show our belief in the Son of God is by obeying Him and living for Him.

The demons know Jesus is God and they shudder. But to obey Jesus and live for Him will activate His overcoming power in our lives. True saving faith always turns into works of obedience. No one is perfect. But those who truly love Jesus want to become more like Him. And it really bothers us when we do not live up to the standard God has set for us.

THE WRATH OF GOD REMAINS.

The last few words of chapter 3 have to do with the wrath of God. The Author tells us that the wrath of God remains on those who do not seek to obey Jesus and live for Him.

In other words, we are born dead. We are born separated from God. We are born guilty with a death sentence on our heads. Sin is inevitable because we were born without God's indwelling Spirit. That is the harsh reality of being born into a fallen world inside a body of sin.

The good news is that God had mercy on us. He gave us one way to escape His wrath. He gave His Son who willingly laid down His life and subjected Himself to God's wrath in order to pay for our sin. Those who cry out to God and turn from their sins will be saved. Jesus Christ died for your sin.

Receive His pardon today. Let Him pay for your sin today. Live for Him. The wrath of God is not something you want resting upon and just waiting to fall. Those who are without Christ are one heart attack or car accident away from the wrath of God.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Is His glory your primary purpose?
2. In what ways are you letting the glory and love of Jesus be seen through your life and testimony?
3. What might it look like in your life to join the Father in adoring and cheering on the work of His Son?
4. Are there ways that your plans are competing with God's plans for your life?