

John 3: 22 - 36

3

SUBJECT: John The Baptist

9870

(GT)

An old man, going a lonely way
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide:
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow-pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,
And built a bridge to span the tide."
The builder lifted his old, gray head--
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me,
To the fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

THE SPIRIT OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
John 3;30 "He must increase, but I must decrease."

The picturesque character of rugged
John the Baptist. *easy*

I. THE SPIRIT OF HUMBLENESS IN (GLORY) *Jan 19-38*

1. The glories of John

- (1) His parentage and wonderful birth
- (2) The hand of the Lord with him
- (3) His wonderfully successful preaching
- (4) Jesus--"None born of woman greater,"

2. The temptation of John

- (1) The readiness of the Jews to pronounce him the Messiah

3. The humbleness of John

- (1) "I am nothing but a voice, crying..."
- (2) "I am not worthy to unloose the shoes of the one to come."

4. The need of this spirit of John.

- (1) My old S. S. teacher, prominent, proud *Tom Cotton, after elected president of church*
- (2) Wealth, honor of men, turning heart of Mr. ...
- (3) If we ever need humbleness, it is in glory

II. THE SPIRIT OF JOY IN ANOTHER'S WORK *Jan 25-29*

1. John watching how own glory fade away
2. John watching the rise and growth of Jesus
3. But behold! instead of envy, is joy and love
4. How seldom is this spirit found

- (1) Envious Saul over David
- (2) As long as we are shingling--but when someone

5. Not so spirit of John Baptist *C. H. Spurgeon*

- a. Senior deacon at Itasca *(C. F. Meyer)*
- b. Women of church, deacons--honor to pastor

III. THE SPIRIT OF DEVOTION TO ANOTHER'S CAUSE *Jan 3:30*

1. John denied himself for Christ

- (1) What if John had failed to decline?
- (2) For Christ to grow, John had to die
 - a. Wheat--for life to flourish, it must die
 - b. My selfish ambition to grow, Christ die
 - (a) Rich young ruler
 - c. If I deny myself, Christ can live in me over

John 3:30 "He must increase, but I must decrease." THE SPIRIT OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

2. John built not for himself, but for the one who followed.

Our preparation for the generation to follow us. These very people.

An old man, going a lonely way
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide:
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him,
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow-pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
The builder lifted his old, gray head--
"Good friend, in the path I have come" he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me,
To the fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

This truly the Spirit of John the Baptist

- b. Women of church, descons--honor to pastor
- s. Old brother White
- 5. Not so spirit of John Baptist
- s. Senior deacon at Isaac (C.F. G. ...)
- (2) As long as we are sinning--but when someone

III. THE SPIRIT OF DEVOTION TO ANOTHER'S CAUSE John 3:30

- 1. John denied himself for Christ
- (1) What if John had failed to decline?
- (2) For Christ to grow, John had to die
- s. Wheat--for life to flourish, it must die
- d. My selfish ambition to grow, Christ die
- (a) Rich young ruler
- If I deny myself, Christ can live in me

over

Recan Mind
2/30

2/30