



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title:** Marks of a Healthy Ministry

**Date:** March 30, 2025

**Scripture Text:** John 3:22-36

**Series:** Believe - The Study of the Book of John

### **Notes:**

Jesus is in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. While there, He has an encounter with an influential Pharisee named Nicodemus. They discuss the concept of being ‘born again’ and how God provided a way for all people to experience this rebirth, through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Sometime later ([vs. 22](#), “after these things...”) Jesus leaves Jerusalem and heads into the Judean countryside. There His disciples encounter John the Baptist’s disciples. The rest of John 3 describes this encounter and John the Baptist’s engagement with his disciples and his testimony concerning the Messiah. From this engagement we see two *marks of a health ministry*.

#### **I. The Humble Position of Saints ([John 3:22-30](#))**

In this passage we see John the Baptist’s flourishing ministry, yet he maintains his focus on Christ and consistently directs his disciples in that direction. Let’s consider three elements of ministry...

- The Expansion of Ministry ([vss. 22-24](#))
  - Jesus pauses to take some time to baptize some of His followers (we see in [4:1-2](#) that it was His disciples doing the baptizing)
    - Jesus got His disciples involved in His ministry by allowing them to baptize ([John 4:1-2](#)).
      - What is the value of ministers expanding their ministries by including others in the work?
    - Many people also came out to John to be baptized. His ministry continued to grow as he was obedient to the calling God had given him.
      - What are ways churches grow?
      - Why is it important for churches to grow in many areas: spiritually, numerically, relationally?
- The Temptation of Ministry ([vss. 25-26](#))
  - Concern was raised on the part of John’s disciples that everyone was going to Jesus instead of to John. Many times, we may miss what God is doing in our lives because we are too focused on the blessings He is giving another.
    - What are similar temptations between churches today? Between Christians?
    - What are the warning signs that a church/Christian are motivated by jealousy/pride?
    - How can we guard our heart against jealousy/pride and keep it focused on Christ?



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- The Illustration of Ministry (vss. 27-30)
  - John consistently directs attention away from himself and towards Jesus. It's not about him, but about Him!!
    - In [vs. 27](#), John makes the point that Jesus' ministry is from God, and that Jesus would not have such attention unless God was in it.
      - Why is it important to follow God in everything we do?
      - When we follow God, where should the attention go?
    - John understood his role in God's kingdom. He was called to go before Jesus and prepare the way.
      - Does every Christian have a role in God's kingdom today?
      - How can understanding your role in God's kingdom affect your ministry?

Humble servants are essential for healthy ministry!

### **II. The Exalted Position of the Savior (John 3:31-35)**

John not only recognized his role in the Kingdom of God but also understood the difference between him and Jesus.

- Jesus is Above All (vs. 31)
  - John acknowledges that Jesus came from above (heaven) and as a result was above all.
    - How can we show others today that Jesus is above all?
    - Describe in your own words what it means for Jesus to be above all.
- Jesus Knows All (vss. 32-33)
  - When we read what Jesus says about heaven in the Bible, we know that He is speaking from firsthand knowledge. We can believe Him because He is the seal authenticating what He says is true.
    - What are ways people may try to discredit Jesus?
    - Why can you trust Jesus?
- Jesus Empowers All (vs. 34)
  - Based on [vs. 34](#), how does Jesus empower us?
  - If we receive the Holy Spirit "without measure", what does that say about the limits we can serve God?
- Jesus Owns All (vs. 35)
  - If Jesus owns it all, what does that mean for the possessions we have?
  - What's the difference between owning something and being its steward?
  - How does remembering that everything we have is from Jesus affect our view of our possessions?

[John 3:36](#) is the decision we must all make. Do you believe? Do you obey?