Introduction: I’m sure all of us have heard the saying “you only have one chance to make a good first impression.” Quickly let’s look at the first impression Jesus made! After Jesus baptism and temptation came the Passover, Jesus traveled to Jerusalem and if you are following our study you know it is there He made a big impression. In case you’re not up to speed. On the way to Jerusalem to observe Passover, Jesus began calling His disciples, He performed the first messianic miracle by turning water to wine and when Jesus entered Jerusalem He cleansed the temple. Next we find Jesus being confronted by Nicodemus, the wealthy, sophisticated, aristocrat of the Pharisees; and one of a few who suspected that Jesus may actually be who He claimed to be, the Messiah. Beginning with Nicodemus, John the Apostle recalls how Jesus began introducing Himself and His intentions. Through Nicodemus we were explained the simplicity of Salvation and redemption. The point I want you to get is the importance of a good and proper first impression, with this we can build upon it everything the Lord desires. From our passage today we will see the impression Jesus made, the impression John the Baptist made and the result those impression had in the lives and work of those who follow them. Let’s look at “Sincerity, Service and Submission in the life of a Christian. Notice with me…

# The work of redemption V.v.22-24

We see baptism in these verses but understand there was much more than just men and women being plunged under water. Baptism was and still is today a symbol of redemption.

Jesus and John the Baptist were both preaching the same message, repent and be baptized, we know from John 4:2 that Jesus was not personally baptizing anyone, but His disciples were carrying the banner of the Lord.

That tells the Church of today our spiritual vision and vocation should be focused on the work of redemption!

# The concern of a commission V.v.25-27

With the work of God comes the reality that there are people who have questions; legitimate and illegitimate. The disciples of John the Baptist were concerned enough about their commission (work) to search for the answers.

The Church needs a concern for the commission we have.

# The understanding of a position V.v.28-30

Here we find one of the most repeated verses in all the Bible; “He must increase, but I must decrease.” Church today seems to look a lot like the day to day job. Folks seem to want a position, we want to be able to tell others what to do without getting our hands dirty.

Gods work isn’t like that, actually, it involves moving down so folks can see the Lord without having to look around us. It is time the Church returns to hearing we serve the Lord Jesus Christ, He doesn’t serve us.

# The testimony of godly conviction V.v.31-36

In verse 34 we read, “For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.”

The individual (man or woman) who is sent by God to do His work and spread His word will have the anointing of the Spirit without restriction. That means the Church should desire a godly conviction, one that burns in our heart from a love that is eternal.

Conclusion: So where does this leave me, today in the 21st century? The closing of John chapter 3 leaves the church making a decision. What are working toward? Are we concerned about seeing people saved? That’s redemption! Yes there are social needs that must be met but not at the expense of a social gospel. If the prodigal son were written today, he would been given a bed and a peanut butter sandwich and he never would have gone home and repented and experienced the feast from the father. We not only have godly work to do we have a godly plan to follow. What we do is not about you or I personally, it is about Jesus! We are not to get wrapped up in church jobs, how long we hold them or how much authority we have from them. How does it look in my life? Only you and God know the answer to that question. Honestly in the end it comes down to godly conviction. You know if you are living right, you know if you are serving the Lord, you know if your conviction is leading you repentance or rejoicing! When we are sent by God to do His work He anoints it without reservation. That should be our desire today, to be that close to God and His work.