

# Unsung Heroes of the Bible

## *Gaius- A True Christian Brother*

### *3 John*

Intro:

- Expectations from Hotels and their staff
- Expectations from Churches and their members
  - Truth Proclaimed in a loving Christlike way
  - All are Welcomed and Loved Regardless
  - A Place that seeks to Help Others and Spread the Gospel
- 3 John as a Postcard from John to Gaius
- Background:
  - Church Conflict caused by a Church Bully named Diotrephes
  - Gaius and Diotrephes are polar opposites
  - John the Apostle steps in to Encourage Gaius

#### I. Gaius- A True Christian Brother (3 John 1-6)

- What we Know about Gaius is that he was connected to John
- We know that he is known for having a big heart, for helping others, and for his love.
- Facing discouragement in the Church when things are looking bleak.
- John Encourages Gaius by:
  - Sharing His Love: “Agapetos”
  - Praying for Him (His health, His well being, and His Spirit)
  - Bragging on Him
  - Confirmed He was Doing the Right Thing

#### II. Diotrephes- Every Church’s Nightmare! (3 John 9-10)

- First Church Dictator
- Can’t claim Ignorance because he is not corrected for his orthodoxy (as John tends to do)
- What makes Diotrephes a Nightmare?
  - Refuses to accept the authority of the leadership
  - Gossiping Maliciously
  - Refusing to Welcome Others in the Faith (Competition or Comradery)
  - Stopped Others From Helping Others
  - Abused Power by Excommunicating those who disagreed from church

- Biggest Issue is that He loved to be First!
  - Lavar Ball and the purpose of a coach
- John further encourages by:
  - Promising to address the issue (vs 10)
  - Telling Gaius not to sink to Diotrephes’ level (vs 11)

#### III. Practical Applications

- Beware of Church Bullies!
- Church is to be a place of “Radical Hospitality” (Heb 13:2, 1 Pet 4:9)
- Be a Barnabas (1 Thess 5:11, Acts 4:36-37)

Conclusion:

- Face to Face and Knowing Names (3 John 14)

