

"Jesus Must Increase and We Must Decrease"

Part 2

John 3:22-36

Introduction: Last week in our study of John we stopped on John 3:30. John disciples were concerned because they were losing disciples to Jesus Christ. The Jews had come to point this out to John's disciples.

Notice John 3:22-26

Satan was using the Jews to stir up jealousy and division. But John had no jealousy. John knew his mission was to point people to Jesus Christ. He knew that it was the will of God and he would do what he had been sent to do and then he would step to the background as people would turn to Jesus.

Notice John 3:27-30

John saw himself as the best man who did his part to bring a couple together and then he would step to the side, and his joy would be fulfilled as he watched the couple fall in love. John's joy was not in gathering people to follow himself, but it was in seeing people repent and turn to Jesus Christ. John stated that just as a best man he must decrease and Jesus must increase. John knew that his mission was not about himself, but it was about the promised Messiah. When we stopped last week, we considered how in our lives the same must happen. Jesus must increase and we must decrease. In other words, as we grow in grace people should see less of me and more of Jesus in me.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

The Spirit of God that lives within us desires to manifest the life of Jesus through our lives. He is hindered when we allow the flesh to control us.

Romans 13:13-14

¹³ *Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.*

¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Before we move on, I need to point out that there are 3 MUSTS in John 3.

John 3:3

⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

John 3:14

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

John 3:30

³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease.

As we continue John will tell us why Jesus MUST increase.

➤ **John the Baptist's Testimony**

➤ **Part 2**

Notice John 3:31

Here John points to the preeminence of Jesus Christ. He is above all because He is from above. This has a double meaning. It speaks of Jesus being eternal and it speaks of His deity. Jesus is above all because He is God. Jesus has the full knowledge of heavenly things, and He has the full knowledge of the eternal counsels of God the Father. He is the Source of all spiritual Truth.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

In Colossians 1 we see the preeminence of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:15-17

¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Notice John 3:31 again.

John makes it clear that he is earthly therefore Jesus must be preferred before him.

Application:

This is a very revealing verse pertaining to man. Man cannot know anything of the spiritual realm apart from knowing Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:9-14

⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

An unsaved man can know nothing about spiritual matters. As human beings we can know nothing, but what we experience in our physical world. It is only by a relationship with Jesus Christ that we can come to know about spiritual Truth. That means the celebrities and the elites who are not born again, and they claim to be spiritual and claim to have insight into spiritual Truth, they really have no knowledge of anything outside of their "box" in this physical world. The bottom line is they have no Truth pertaining to God.

Notice John 3:32

Here is another reason why Jesus is preeminent. He has come down from heaven, and He has testified to mankind that which He has seen in heaven. Jesus is the only Man who is qualified to talk about heaven because He is the only Man who has been to heaven and then came to earth to speak of heaven.

Let me point out here that people who claim to have died and gone to heaven and then came back to tell of what they have seen are putting themselves in the same spiritual level as Jesus Christ. Jesus is the ONLY MAN who has been to heaven and then came to earth to tell us about heaven.

Notice John 3:32 again.

The end of the verse tells of a sad Truth. There are many who will not believe His testimony. Many will believe the theory of evolution, they will believe the stories of people who say they went to heaven and came back, but they reject the testimony of Jesus Christ who is the true source of all spiritual Truth. People believe all kinds of false theories, but they reject the most important testimony of all.

Notice John 3:33-34

There is a small remnant who have believed the testimony of Jesus and in their belief, they have set their seal that God is true. Notice the thought on setting a seal.

"The metaphor seal is from sealing a document to express one's trust in it and adherence to it. The seal certifies and thus attests the validity of the document (shown by the seal on it) and here speaks of attesting the truthfulness of Jesus (and His testimony) as true and God as true. Another way one might look at this is those who believe Jesus' testimony that He is the Son of God set their seal of approval on the Father's testimony Who declared " "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.""

Getting back to the verses; there are two reasons here why Jesus must increase. First, He is sent by God. No one else has been sent by God from heaven to reveal the Truth about God. The second reason why Jesus must increase is because His Word is True because His Word is the Word of God. Jesus Christ is the absolute Truth. He had come to the earth to reveal God to mankind. He was God in the flesh. The Words He spoke were therefore the Words of God.

John 8:26

²⁶ *I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.*

²⁷ *They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.*

²⁸ *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*

John 8:40

⁴⁰ *But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.*

Notice John 3:34 again.

Here is another reason Jesus must increase. He had the fulness of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus walked on the earth He walked under the control of the Spirit every step He had taken. There is no person who has ever lived their lives under the control of the Spirit like Jesus did. Jesus never hindered the Spirit. He never quenched the Spirit. Every moment of His life was lived under the control of the Spirit.

Isaiah 11:1-3

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

² *And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

³ *And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:*

Notice John 3:35

Here is another reason He must increase, all things have been given into His hands. The "all things" here are far too numerous to list. But I can tell you that "ALL" means "ALL" and there is nothing that is kept from our Lord. He directs the steps that we take every day. He filters every trial that we face in life. He holds the comfort that we need when we are hurting. He gives the grace that we need for life. He is given all judgment. The list goes on and on.

Notice John 3:36

Here is the final reason why Jesus must increase. He is the Giver of life. Any person who believes on Jesus Christ for salvation is given eternal life. The one who does not believe on Jesus has the wrath of God abiding on them.

Conclusion:

I will close with a verse that will help us with all of what we considered this evening.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Jesus is called the "ONLY BEGOTTEN SON" which means "one of a kind/unique" and now we understand a little more of why He is so unique. There is no man like Him for He is the God Man.