

Jesus Must Increase - We Must Decrease

John 3:22-30

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized (for John had not yet been put in prison).

Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.

You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but

I have been sent before him.' The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the

bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.

“He must increase,
but I must decrease.”

Humility is the proper
estimate of oneself.”
Charles Spurgeon

“Meekness and lowliness of heart are the chief marks by
which they who follow the Lamb of God are to be
known.” Andrew Murray

How do we clearly see the “increase” of Jesus in our
lives?

**1. The symbol of water baptism teaches the death of
self.”**

22-24

Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside
and He remained there with them and was baptizing.
(22)

Jesus himself did not baptize anyone. (4:2)

John also was baptizing .. People were coming and being baptized.

(23)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Rom. 6:3

We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death... we too might walk in newness of life.

(4)

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin...

(11)

If anyone would come after Me,
let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Matt. 16:24

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. (25)

2. The sin of comparison increases self and decreases Jesus.

Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. (25)

And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness – Look, He is baptizing and all are going to him. (26)

All the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to Him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Mark 1:5

Pharisee in the Temple
"God I thank you that I am not
like other men..." Lk. 18:1

Moses had competition
Aaron and Miriam?
Paul – rivalry with other preachers
Phil. 1:15-18

The flesh at work – “jealousy and strife among you.”

1 Cor. 3:3

The works of the flesh – “strife.. jealousy... rivalries...
dissension... divisions, envy... Gal. 5:19-21

- Seeking value in what others
say about you?
- Seeking value in how you compare
with others?

Or in humility - Jesus is exalted!

Decreasing self – Increasing Christ!

3. See Jesus at work in you and through you.

A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given
him from heaven. John 3:27

“God created the world out of nothing, and as long as we
are nothing, He can make something out of us.”

Martin Luther

What do you have that you did not receive? If then you
received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

1 Cor. 4:7

“We owe everything to God...
we therefore must present ourselves as empty vessels
in which God can dwell and manifest His power
and goodness.”

Andrew Murray

For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work
for His good pleasure. Phil. 2:13

But by the grace of God I am what I am.. I worked harder
than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of
God that is with me. 1 Cor. 15:10

Comedians are humbled by big laughs, yoga practitioners
are humbled by achieving difficult poses, athletes are
humbled by good days on the field, Christmas volunteers
are humbled by their own generosity and holiday spirit.

... None of these people sound very “humbled” at all. On
the contrary: They all seem exceedingly proud of
themselves, hash-tagging their humility to advertise their
own status, success, sprightliness, generosity, moral
superiority, and luck. When did humility get so cocky and
vainglorious?”

Carina Chocano, New York Times
(1-24-17)

Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

John 15:4

For apart from Me, you can do nothing. (5b)

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all.

John 6:63

4. Look for ways to selflessly serve Jesus.

You yourselves bear a witness that I said, "I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him."

John 3:28

Humility is not putting yourself down but seeing your correct position in relation to Christ.

The one who has the bride is the bridegroom; the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears Him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice.

(29)

Therefore this joy of mine
is now complete.
(29)

“Walking in victory is the difference between what
pleases us and what pleases God.” Chuck Swindoll

5. Strive daily to “lift up” Jesus.

“He must increase, but
I must decrease.” John 3:30

- . His Provision
- . His Power
- . His Purpose
- . His Praise