



Jesus Must Increase
7th in the “Life in his Name” Series
John 3:22-36 p. 888
October 21, 2018
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God teaches us more about Jesus Christ and how we are called to serve and enjoy him.

The Text: John 3:22-36

1) Jesus is the true Baptist, and baptism is an initiation ceremony of our identity in Christ (vv. 22-24; 4:1-2).

- a) Baptism is a ceremony that Christ administers through pastors that declares our new identity in Jesus and his church.*
- b) Baptism is essential for everyone who is a Christian.*
- c) Baptism is not based on the merit or worthiness of the believer or the pastor, but on Christ who empowers baptism and makes it valid.*
- d) Baptism is administered to a believer, not an infant, because baptism is a sign of the New Covenant and Christ’s bloodline.*
- e) There are not two baptisms, one in water and one in the Spirit, for Christian baptism in water is done by the Son and through the Spirit.*

2) Jesus is the true Bridegroom, and our ministry is to serve and be served by Jesus (vv. 25-36).

- a) Christians are called to serve the Bridegroom – to be servants of Jesus Christ.*
- b) Christians are expected to declare the gospel – to be ministers for Jesus.*
- c) Christians are also expected to receive the gospel – to be ministered to by Jesus.*
- d) The more Christ increases in your life, the more you will have true joy (see v. 29)*

Response

“Jesus must increase, but I must decrease.”

Sunday Text Questions for John 3:22-36

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- 1) Starter Question: Why is the ceremony of baptism important for both the Christian and the church?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Read 3:22-24 and 4:1-2. How does the delayed information (that Jesus was not physically baptizing) teach us about the nature and practice of the ceremony of baptism?
- 4) Why do you think the disciples of John felt competition (v. 26) with Jesus when John's his preaching (1:19-34) was so clearly pointing them to Jesus?
- 5) Is it possible for individual Christians to compete with Jesus in the way they present Christianity? Since John's disciples were concerned with the number of people going to him (v. 26), is it possible that a church's focus on numbers or their own fame might be a form of competing with Jesus?
- 6) How does John's response to his disciples in v. 27 teach us to receive our ministries as from the Lord, and what does such a response look like?
- 7) The "friend of the bridegroom" (v. 29) in the ancient world is like "a best man on steroids," a servant in every way. How does such an analogy teach us about how we are to serve Christ and present him to others?
- 8) How can we emulate the mission statement of John: "Jesus must increase, I must decrease" (v. 30).
- 9) In v. 36, the reader is confronted with the choice between "life ... in the Son" and the "wrath of God." Why is it important to talk about God's wrath and not just about God's love?
- 10) What *truths to believe* or *actions to obey* does this passage of Scripture teach us?

Further study this week: Matthew 10:34-39 on increasing Jesus over relationships (Mon); Matthew 6:19-24 on increasing Jesus over possessions (Tues); Acts 5:17-42 on increasing Jesus over reputation (Wed); Galatians 5:16-26 on increasing Jesus over sinful pleasure (Thurs); Hebrews 13:1-21 on increasing Jesus over selfish desires (Fri).