

He Must Increase but I Must Decrease

Happy Wednesday!

How big are you?

Not externally, but internally.

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”

John 3:30 ASV (Check out the attached picture of a shirt I just bought)

John the Baptizer says this in response to his disciple’s statement about someone else getting more recognition than he was. The statement was simple, common, and tempting: “And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified, behold, He is baptizing and all are coming to Him.”” John 3:26 NASB1995

The concern the disciples had was centered around:

- failing or being insignificant
- Being rejected or overlooked
- Becoming less, which leads to becoming *useless*
- Surrendering their careers or jobs or roles to another or letting someone else take their place

I’m sure we could go on... but the temptation to become inflated, proud of what you’ve accomplished *before* this person showed up. It’s like they said, “People were coming to us, now they’re going to Him.” And the temptation for jealousy, rage, anger for ‘what was rightfully theirs’, is the new guy better than us?

But who was the “new guy?”

JESUS!

Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, and then people stopped following John the Baptist and followed Jesus! And John’s disciples were concerned - “what does this mean for us?”

It means to them the same thing it means to us: we are not more important than Jesus, we are not better at redeeming others than Jesus, we are not better at _____ (fill in the blank: parenting, teaching, listening, planning, orchestrating, providing, being a friend, working all things out for God’s greater plan, ...) than Jesus is. So let’s not forget our purpose: to POINT others to Jesus, not to be Jesus for them. HE must become greater in the lives of others. I must become LESS.

What about you?

Do you want to be seen, or do you want to reflect the face of God?

Let's make an agreement:

We refuse to compete with Christ.

We will fight FOR Christ.

We refuse to take God's glory and make it our own.

We will MAGNIFY THE LORD.

Not by our own strength or by our own spirit, but through the ZEAL OF THE LORD.

[View John's full response here:](#)

“John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent ahead of Him.’ He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. He must increase, but I must decrease. “He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. What He has seen and heard, of that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. He who has received His testimony has set his seal to this, that God is true. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.””

John 3:27-36 NASB1995

<https://bible.com/bible/100/jhn.3.27-36.NASB1995> [bible.com]

Prayer:

Thank You, Father, that You do work all things for Your good and for the good of those who love you. Thank You that You are better at being God than any human who ever has walked or will walk on the earth. Help us not take credit for what You do day to day; give us eyes to see you in every thing - big and small. Thank you for Jesus, through His Holy Name we pray Amen - let it be so.

Worship:

“No One Higher” by North Point Worship

<https://youtu.be/hImvLBrxWwU?si=3xfcXRCEiaKucFJo> [youtu.be]

“Give Me Jesus” by Upperroom <https://youtu.be/YEenBiBh91A?si=gZ3xVs6nduTa7M4P> [youtu.be]

“I Must Become Less” by Mitch Wong and Daniel and Nichole Binion

<https://youtu.be/N73DswM9yqE?si=fINR-eSLS2coe6Pn> [youtu.be]

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