

SERIES: Gospel of John
He Must Increase and I Must Decrease
John 3:22-30

The Big Idea

Your joy will never be complete until your greatest goal is for Jesus to be glorified.

Setting the Stage: John the Baptist Fades Into Jesus' Shadow (3:22-26)

- The ministries of Jesus and John the Baptist overlapped for a time. (22-24)
- John's followers become **jealous** over John's shrinking ministry.
 - It began with a discussion about purification. (25)
 - They became distressed over baptism. (26)
- Beware of two sinful tendencies when sharing a ministry:
 - Beware of the sin of **comparison**.
 - Beware of the sin of **competition**.

The Key to Fullness of Joy: Jesus Must Increase, and I Must Decrease (27-30)

- Why does the writer bring John the Baptist back into the story? Is he saying anything new here?
- The key is in verse 29: John finds abounding joy in Jesus getting bigger and him getting smaller.
- How can our joy be made complete? John the Baptist shows us four ways:
 - All ministry and blessings are a **gift** from God, so there can be no competition. (27)
 - Our position is because of God's **plan**. (28)
 - The best man should **rejoice** in the Bridegroom receiving his bride. (29)
 - The voice of the Bridegroom has silenced the voice crying out in the wilderness.
 - The bride will recognize the voice of the **Bridegroom**.
 - The sheep will recognize the voice of their **Shepherd**.
 - Herod would eventually silence John's voice completely with the sword.
 - As Jesus increases, **joy** increases. (30)

What About Purification?

- Did John skip over the discussion about purification?
- Why did John speak about Jesus being a bridegroom instead of pointing to Him as the Lamb?
 - The bride is the wife of the **Lamb**. (Rev. 21:9)
 - The bridegroom is the Lamb who lays down his life for his bride.
 - The groom will be **crucified**.
 - The bride will be **purified**.
 - Jesus will be **glorified**.
 - Our joy will be **satisfied**.

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