

John 3:22-30

He Must Increase and I Must Decrease

1. A _____ for Controversy: (22-24)

- a. Jesus and His disciples went into the Judean countryside:
 - i. And He remained there with them. –11:54
 - ii. And was baptizing. –4:2
- b. John also was baptizing:
 - i. At Aenon near Salim because water was plentiful there. –Acts 8:38
 - ii. And people were coming and being baptized. –5:35
- c. For John had not yet been put in prison. –Mark 1:14-15

2. John's _____ Disciples: (25-26)

- a. A dispute with a Jew arose over purification. –2:6
- b. They came to John and said to him “Rabbi:
 - i. He who was with you beyond the Jordan to whom you bore witness.
 - ii. _____: Look, He is baptizing and all are going to Him. –12:19

3. John's _____ with God's Calling: (27-28)

- a. _____ you have has been _____ from God. –John 6:65
- b. John had never lost focus of his _____. –1:8, 15, 19-21
- c. John understood, and was _____ with, his commission. –1:23

4. John's _____ of Christ's Superiority: (29-30)

- a. The analogy of a _____:
 - i. Jesus is the bridegroom who has the bride. –2:9; Is 62:4-5; Hos 2:16-20
 - ii. John is the _____:
 1. He stands to hear and _____ the bridegroom. –Matt 25:1-6
 2. Jesus' _____ and _____ completes his joy. –Ps 19:5
- b. A _____ and _____ conclusion:

“He must increase, but I must decrease.” –1:26-27

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After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. ²³ John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴ (for John had not yet been put in prison).

²⁵ Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶ 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.” ²⁷ John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease.”