

April 28, 2024
Sermon Notes
The Gospel of John S3E4
Less is More
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John 3:27-36 NIV 1984

²⁷ To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' ²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. ³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less. ³¹ "The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. ³³ The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. ³⁴ For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

Key Point: Less is more.

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess." Martin Luther

The Setting: Here again, John's gospel emphasizes God's justice and turns the Judean wilderness into God's courtroom.

- Vs. 28 Testify, Vs. 29 Legal Weddings, Vs. 30 Authority from above, Vs. 32 Testify/testimony Vs. 33 Certification, Vs. 36 Judgment and conviction.
 - [Romans 5:1](#) - *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"*

1. Less is more

Vs. 30 He must become greater; I must become less."

- "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven."
- "That joy is mine, and it is now complete."
 - Understanding the principle of putting all things under his authority.

Practical Takeaway:

1. **Create a Posture of Provision:** Relinquish the reins so that God might reign.
Practice becoming less.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. **Divine Provision:** How does recognizing that "a person can receive only what is given them from heaven" change your approach to personal goals and achievements?
2. **Role of Humility:** In what ways can embracing the statement "He must become greater; I must become less" impact your personal and spiritual growth?
3. **Joy in Service:** John found complete joy in serving and uplifting Christ. How can we find similar joy in our lives by putting others first?
4. **Acceptance of Testimony:** John the Baptist's testimony was not widely accepted. How do you respond when your faith convictions are challenged or dismissed by others?
5. **Eternal Perspective:** Discuss the implications of believing in Jesus for eternal life versus rejecting Him, based on John's assertion that "whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life."