

# He MUST Increase

John 3:22-36



# Generational Search...

- We often look at where we are and wonder:
  - Is this all there is?
  - Is this what I was meant to do?
  - What is the meaning in it all?
- John the Baptist
  - Had preached his heart and soul to his generation
  - Challenged the Pharisees – Matthew 3:7-12!
  - He would one day soon “lose his head” for Jesus
  - But, now is something harder... his FOLLOWERS...





# Jesus and Disciples

- Jesus had come after dealing with Nicodemus
- Needed time to refresh
- Disciples needed to GET AWAY from Jerusalem!
  - Tendencies to get comfortable and forget
  - Prospects, Power, Position, Passions
- “spending time with them”
- Disciples were baptizing followers (Not Jesus 4:2)
  - Baptism is for identification
  - Adults need a FRESH PICTURE
  - So, how will this effect JB?



# John's Following...

- They start talking about “purification”...
  - Arguments of style, pattern, method, extent...
  - The One you were with, whom you testified about
  - They were implying that his ministry was false...
- The people come expecting this Fiery Man to:
  - Get upset and renounce Jesus or argue...
  - Try to “protect” his “ministry”
- His Response:
  - You have nothing unless it is GIVEN
  - I AM NOT THE CHRIST!!!





# John's Wisdom...

- I know who I am...
  - I stand with and hear the “bridegroom”
  - OT is full of Marriage pictures... Isaiah 54:5; 62:4, Hosea 2:21; Jeremiah 2:2; 3:20; Ezekiel 16:8; 23:4...
  - I rejoice with the “Groom” – he has “HIS BRIDE”
  - No competitions in Godly ministry, REJOICE!
- He MUST increase, I MUST decrease
  - *auxanō* – to grow, become greater; Pres. Active
  - *elataoō* – make lower, inferior, Pres. Passive



# Our Wisdom...

- He is FROM ABOVE – incarnation, fully God
- ABOVE ALL – no power can touch Him
- Jesus comes and tells us what He has seen
- We receive that testimony and are sealed in truth!
- Jesus given the Spirit without measure, fullness!
- Believes has eternal life...Pres. Act
- Refusal to obey... wrath!
- HE MUST INCREASE...

