

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for March 13-14, 2004

"He Must Increase, I Must Decrease"

John 3:22-30

After making it clear what Jesus stands for in John 3:1-21, the Apostle John returned to John the Baptist in John 3:22-30 in order to show his continuing unwavering support of Jesus.

What do we learn about John the Baptist's unwavering support of Jesus in John 3:22-30?

John the Baptist's unwavering support of Jesus was not shared by all of his disciples (John 3:22-26).

The word for "purification" used in John 3:25 is the same word used by John to refer to Jewish purification rites in John 2:6.

Though the disciples of John were initially engaged in a discussion about purification rites, their attention turned to the baptizing work of Jesus when talking to the Baptist.

The declaration of the disciples of John the Baptist that "all" were going out to Jesus to be baptized was obviously an exaggeration.

John the Baptist's unwavering support of Jesus continued in spite of his diminishing role (John 3:27-30).

The response of John the Baptist to his diminishing role reveals the proper philosophy (John 3:27-28).

John the Baptist viewed everything that men enjoy by way of success as being from the hand of God. It was this philosophy that kept him from becoming resentful of Jesus' success.

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The philosophy introduced to us in John 3:27 should not only impact how we respond to the success of others but also how we respond to our own success (1 Corinthians 4:6-7).

The response of John the Baptist to his diminishing role reveals the proper attitude (John 3:29).

Jesus is the bridegroom. John the Baptist is the friend of the bridegroom. The bride is all who, by faith, come to Christ.

John the Baptist uses this particular illustration in order to picture that the proper attitude of a friend when the bridegroom is united with his bride is one of great joy.

The response of John the Baptist to his diminishing role reveals the proper conduct (John 3:20).

"He must increase, but I must decrease."