

HE MUST INCREASE, I MUST DECREASE

July 10, 2016 John 3:33-36 by Bob Branch
Believing Into Life, Part 10

BIG IDEA: Stepping aside and letting Jesus take his rightful place at the center of everything.

²² After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. ²³ Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. ²⁴ (This was before John was put in prison.) ²⁵ An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of purification. ²⁶ They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

- 1. God is constantly preparing people to introduce them to Jesus.**
- 2. How we respond when pushed from the spotlight shows what's really inside us.**

²⁷ To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.

- 3. Embracing your limitations is part of the path to freedom.**

²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah 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."

- 4. Celebrate the success of others because it is God who's giving it!**

"He must increase, I must decrease."

- 5. For Jesus to be fully known and his kingdom cause to move forward, we must get out of the way.** Our selfish ambition must be upgraded to God's vision and holy ambition.

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 Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is true. ³⁴ For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he 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 them.

Why hand Jesus over the reigns?

- He is **heaven's messenger** with **heaven's message!**
 - You are **hearing directly from God!**
 - Jesus has a **direct Father-Son relationship** with God in heaven.
 - Jesus has **unlimited Spirit anointing.**
- 6. To be effective at getting out of God's way, we need an expansive and fresh vision of Jesus.**

"**Wrath**" is a present reality. "the settled and active opposition of God's holy nature to everything that is evil" (Romans 1:18, 24, 26, 28)

