



CONNECTING
PEOPLE TO GOD | PEOPLE TO PEOPLE | PEOPLE TO OUTREACH

Discussion Questions: John 3:22-36

John 3:22–36 teaches that true greatness in God's kingdom is found not in promoting ourselves but in exalting Christ. Through the humble example of John the Baptist, we learn to reject comparison, embrace the unique role God has given us, and rejoice when Jesus receives the glory. The passage culminates by declaring Christ's supreme authority as the One who came from heaven, speaks the very words of God, possesses the Spirit without measure, and alone offers eternal life. Ultimately, every person must respond to Jesus by either believing in the Son and receiving everlasting life or rejecting Him and remaining under the righteous judgment of God.

1. Tell us about someone in your life who encouraged your success rather than competing with you. What made that relationship so meaningful?

Observation

2. Why were John's disciples troubled when they saw more people going to Jesus instead of John? What does this reveal about their perspective? (John 3:25–26)

3. According to John the Baptist, where do our gifts, opportunities, and influence ultimately come from? (John 3:27)

4. What does John mean when he says, "He must increase, but I must decrease"? (John 3:30)

5. How does John use the illustration of the bridegroom and his friend to describe his ministry? What point is he making? (John 3:29)

Interpretation

6. Why do you think comparison is such a common temptation, even among believers serving the same Lord?

7. How does believing that "a man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven" change the way we view our own accomplishments and the success of others?

8. John rejoiced when people left him to follow Jesus. What does this teach us about the true purpose of Christian ministry?

9. John says Jesus is "from above" and "above all." Why is Christ's heavenly origin essential to understanding His authority? (John 3:31–34)

10. Verse 36 presents only two responses to Jesus. Why do you think Scripture leaves no room for neutrality?

Application

11. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to compare yourself to others? How can you intentionally guard your heart against comparison?

12. Which of the "three P's" mentioned in the sermon—person, position, or possession—is most likely to become a source of covetousness for you? Why?

13. What is one practical way you can live out, "He must increase, but I must decrease," this week in your family, workplace, or ministry?

14. How can our church intentionally celebrate what God is doing in other churches and ministries rather than viewing them as competition?

Closing Challenge

15. John concludes the chapter by asking every person, in effect, what they will do with Jesus. If someone asked you today why they should trust Christ instead of relying on religion or themselves, how would you answer from John 3:22–36?

Memory Verse

John 3:30 (NKJV) "He must increase, but I must decrease."

This verse beautifully captures the heart of John the Baptist's ministry and provides a lifelong motto for every follower of Christ.