

Life Group Homework

JOHN 3:22-36 – HE MUST INCREASE; I MUST DECREASE

Getting Started:

1. Our pride does not like it when others become more recognized and applauded than ourselves. Nor does our pride do well when our role in an event matters less while someone else matters more. Why is this?

2. Can you share with the group a time when this happened to you (change names if necessary)? How did you feel when this happened and what did you struggle with?

Digging In:

In *John 3:27*, John the Baptist says that a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Think through this while asking the following questions:

1. If “not even one thing” can be received unless it is from heaven, does that mean that everything that comes our way in this life is given to us from heaven? EVERYTHING?

2. What sort of things do we typically recognize as being given from heaven?

3. What sort of things in life do we have a hard time accepting as 'given from heaven'?

4. Why does accepting everything as being given from heaven require humility? To ask it in another way: Why would our pride prevent us from accepting what heaven has given to us?

5. Discuss how this relates to the tenth commandment to not covet (*Exodus 20:17*).

John the Baptist not only allows for Jesus to increase in prominence and begin to overshadow him, John genuinely rejoices in it (*John 3:29*). Let's investigate how this could be by considering the following questions:

1. When Jesus increased and John decreased what did John actually lose? What did he NOT lose?
What did he gain?

2. When in the plan of God someone else “increases” while we “decrease,” what do we actually lose? What do we NOT lose (what remains ours)? What do we gain?

3. In using the illustration of the bridegroom, John is saying that he, as a friend of the bridegroom, finds joy when the bridegroom has joy. How does our love for God supply this sort of joy?

Living It Out:

1. In our lives today is there still a way that Jesus Himself must increase and we must decrease? What relationships do we hold on to because we are afraid of losing what we have with that person by introducing Jesus?

2. Can you think of any relationship where you are struggling to accept a decreased role while someone else is receiving an increased role? How might this Bible passage help someone who is facing that struggle?