

# The Gospel of John: Greater & Lesser

*John 3:22-36*

## Baptizers (v. 22-25)

- Jesus & His disciples are ministering in the Judean wilderness near a site where John is still baptizing people
  - John's baptism is an act of repentance & preparation to meet the Messiah
- Jesus's *disciples* are also baptizing people
  - Jesus never baptized anyone in water (see John 4:2)
  - Their baptism ministry is a continuation of John's
  - It is not the baptism by the Spirit & fire that Jesus offers later (Acts 1:5) and that we receive when we accept Christ
- John's disciples and another Jew are arguing about ceremonial washing, a Jewish custom (2:6) distinct from John's baptism
  - The argument was probably over a misunderstanding about the distinctions between ritual purity (ceremonial washing) & repentance (John's baptism)

## Knowing Your Role (v. 26-30)

- John's disciples are concerned that Jesus' ministry is outpacing his
- John's response shows that he understands his role
  - He's not the groom at this wedding; he's the best man
  - The focus of his mission is not himself; it is Jesus
- John understands that he needs to "get out of the way" until everything is about Jesus
  - If people are going to Jesus, then he is doing his job
  - This is true for us too!

## The Gospel Truth (v. 31-36)

- John then summarizes the ministry of Jesus
- Jesus, the heaven-sent Son of God, can uniquely show us the truth
  - Ultimately, all truth is centered in Him
- He gives those who trust Him eternal life *right now* with the giving of the Spirit
  - "has eternal life"
- But, if we reject the truth of Jesus, we are still under God's wrath
  - The punishment that our sins deserve (Rom 2:5-8)
- God desires to show us mercy, grace, and love through Jesus (2 Pet 3:9; Mt 18:14)

## So What?

- Are we believing the truth about Jesus?
  - Or trying to live our own way?
- Are we making sure that Jesus takes center stage in our lives?
  - Or are we making everything about us?

**Meditation Verse:** John 3:30

**Next Week's Scripture:** John 4:1-26