

Making Room for God

John 3:22-30

"You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' ...He must become greater; I must become less." - John 3:28, 30

Main Point: We must put Jesus first and set ourselves aside to promote Him

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Describe a time in your life when you were 2nd string (or 3rd or 4th!) How did you handle living in the shadow of someone better than you?

When have you had to make room in your life for somebody or something? What changes or sacrifices did you make?

Our job in life isn't to promote ourselves. Our job in life isn't to be first in line. It's to make sure that Jesus is first in line. Our job is to put ourselves to the side and promote Jesus so that others might see Him and discover the joy of having Him fill in the empty places. Today in our passage of Scripture the focus is on John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus. There is an important lesson being lived out by John: how to make room for God in your life; how to give the Lord preeminence in your life.

Read John 3:22-30. We make room for God when we:

1) **DON'T SEE HIM AS OUR COMPETITION. Refer back to vv.22-26.**

Have you ever experienced someone trying to take over your territory? How did you handle the competition?

Do you ever feel like you are in competition with Jesus? That if you give Him more room in your life that He will keep you from enjoying it?

What does John say in v.29 to indicate Jesus' role in his ministry? How can we live a life of completion in Jesus rather than in competition with Him? **Read John 10:10.**

2) **DON'T GET TOO BIG FOR OUR BRITCHES. Read John 3:27.**

What was John's job, the one he had known from birth? How does his comment in **v.27** confirm he knew God's plan?

Isaiah 40:3 was a prophecy concerning John. After reading Isaiah's words, how do you think John felt about his place in the Ministry of Jesus?

How might you need to seek humility in life to reclaim your place and utilize your gifts for God's kingdom? Is there any area you have gotten "too big for your britches" where a thankful heart (and not a prideful one!) might produce humility?

3) **PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON HIM. Read John 3:28-30.**

Are you a fan of the lime light? When have all the lights been on you and how did you handle it when they faded?

Read **John 1:24-31**. What did John the Baptist testify concerning Jesus? How does this relate to what he tells his disciples in our passage today?

How well are you reflecting Jesus in your life? What areas of your life do you need to put the spotlight on Him instead of what the world says?

Apply It:

Write down a list of blessings in your life: your job, children, spouse, health, forgiveness you've received, special influences and people in your life, your church...and tell God thank you. Pray through Psalm 138 and release your pride and ambition. Allow Him to be King and make room in your heart and life for the One who can sustain it.

Pray:

Lord Almighty, thank you for all of your many blessings. We give you honor and praise this night and desire to be a reflection of your glory to the world around us. Give us strength in your Holy Spirit to be your ambassadors, not your competitors, that your Kingdom would be made known. Help us to join in your works and lead the lost to be found. Amen.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

May 27: Graduate Recognition: Send pictures to james@blythewoodvillage.com