

Date: September 15, 2019
Sermon Series: Believe
Sermon Title: Becoming Less
Passage: John 3:22-36

John 3:22-36 (CSB)

²² After this, Jesus and his disciples went to the Judean countryside, where he spent time with them and baptized.

²³ John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water there. People were coming and being baptized, ²⁴ since John had not yet been thrown into prison.

²⁵ Then a dispute arose between John's disciples and a Jew about purification. ²⁶ So they came to John and told him, "Rabbi, the one you testified about, and who was with you across the Jordan, is baptizing—and everyone is going to him."

²⁷ John responded, "No one can receive anything unless it has been given to him from heaven. ²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I've been sent ahead of him.' ²⁹ He who has the bride is the groom. But the groom's friend, who stands by and listens for him, rejoices greatly at the groom's voice. So this joy of mine is complete. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease."

³¹ The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is from the earth is earthly and speaks in earthly terms. The one who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He testifies to what he has seen and heard, and yet no one accepts his testimony. ³³ The one who has accepted his testimony has affirmed that God is true. ³⁴ For the one whom God sent speaks God's words, since he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hands. ³⁶ The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.

God has a plan for each of His followers.

God's plan always entails Jesus becoming greater, and us becoming less.

Everything we have been given has come from God. Every part of our lives should be submitted to God and should serve Him.

It is actually in setting ourselves aside and putting Jesus first (the place where Jesus belongs), THIS is when our joy is made complete.

³⁶The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.

Humanity's "default mode" is "Condemned." Jesus came to solve our problem by giving eternal life to all who would believe in Him.

True belief/faith in Jesus cannot be separated from obedience to Him.