



Blue Ridge Church
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WEEKLY SERMON RESOURCES

Sunday, June 16, 2013

Focal Passage: John 3:22-36: John the Baptist Exalts Jesus

22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. 23 John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized 24 (for John had not yet been put in prison). 25 Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. 26 And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." 27 John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease." 31 He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. 33 Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. 34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. 35 The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

>John the Baptist was clearly a man with a deep sense of mission/purpose. How area are you of the mission God has for you as a believer? How much is your mission at the forefront of your conscious thought?

>Was there a difference between Jesus' baptism and the baptism John offered?

>Why did John not respond with jealousy or a spirit of competition when his disciples pointed out the crowds that were coming to Jesus?

>How can we "decrease" so that Jesus can increase in us?

>In what ways is God calling you to be obedient today? Do you have room to grow in obedience? If so, how?