

# BOOK OF JOHN

## Week 7

### Jesus > Me

#### Intro/opening question

***Do you have more joy when you succeed or when others succeed? Why?***

-Im sure for many of us love to succeed but we rarely get more excited when others succeed, but why? We are selfish whether we want to admit it or not. But today we are going to learn about a man who wanted to become less so that someone much greater could receive the glory. Who do you think I'm talking about? (*Jesus*)

#### ILLUSTRATION:

**Talk about your wedding or a wedding you attended.**

Explain that a wedding day is all about the bride and the groom. It is their day to be "selfish". However, it is also the job of the maid of honor and the best man to make sure that the day goes smoothly and that they serve the bride/groom well. As a best man or maid of honor you are "honored" just to be apart of this couples special day. You are there to celebrate their love and to make them look great, because you are just apart of the background. This is who John the Baptist was he was a great prophet and teacher, but he knew that his role was to simply pave the way for the groom (Jesus) to be seen. This is how our lives should be. Everything we do should point back to Christ to make him greater and us less.

## Setting up the story:

Last week we heard a story about Jesus meeting a man names Nicodemus and explain to him the “Special sauce”. Who remembers what the special sauce was? (*Being born again*).

This week our story takes place in the Judean countryside where both John the Baptist and Jesus were baptizing people. John’s disciples are jealous because everyone seems to be going to *Jesus to get baptized instead of coming to them. Lets find out what his response was...*

## SCRIPTURE:

JOHN 3:22-36 (PAGE 124)

**22** Then Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem and went into the Judean countryside. Jesus spent some time with them there, baptizing people.

**23** At this time John the Baptist was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there; and people kept coming to him for baptism. **24** (This was before John was thrown into prison.) **25** A debate broke out between John’s disciples and a certain Jew[a] over ceremonial cleansing. **26** So John’s disciples came to him and said, “Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan

River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us.”

**27** John replied, “No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. **28** You yourselves know how plainly I told you, ‘I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.’ **29** It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the bridegroom’s friend is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. **30** He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

**31** “He has come from above and is greater than anyone else. We are of the earth, and we speak of earthly things, but he has come from heaven and is greater than anyone else.<sup>[b]</sup> **32** He testifies about what he has seen and heard, but how few believe what he tells them! **33** Anyone who accepts his testimony can affirm that God is true. **34** For he is sent by God. He speaks God’s words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit. **35** The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands. **36** And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.”

## **MAIN POINT: CHOOSE HUMILITY**

John says this in verse 30 **“He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.”**

-As Christians we must live in humility. This means that Jesus must become our greatest priority and everything else should be in the background.

-Whether we want to believe it or not everything we do that does not involve Jesus is inherently selfish. Now I'm not saying you can never do anything fun, but I am saying that Jesus still has to be your first priority. Choosing humility means putting others needs above our own.

### ***Key: Live for Jesus not for the World***

- When we live for the world here's what it has to offer:

**John: 2:16-17**

**16** For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. **17** And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.

- We must live to please the Lord, not for the things of this world. Those things will leave us feeling empty and broken.

-When we live for Jesus he gives us peace, comfort, grace and love and He never leaves us feeling empty.

### **Point 1: MAKE ROOM FOR JESUS**

- verse 28 “You yourselves know how plainly I told you, ‘I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.’”

-We must prepare the way for Jesus and make room for Him in our everyday lives.

-This means spending time with Him daily, making Him not just a priority, but our number 1 priority.

***Key: We prepare the way for Jesus when we serve others.***

-Just like John the Baptist was baptizing others and making disciples it is our job to make disciples as well. We need to put others needs above our own. This is exactly what Jesus does.

-He took on the weight of our sin and shame and he wore it on the cross. He made the ultimate sacrifice and He was the perfect example of what it means to serve others.

### **Point 2: OBEY THE SON (JESUS)**

Verse 36 “Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.”

-In order to experience eternal life we must not just believe in Jesus, but we have to obey him.

### **ILLUSTRATION:**

**-Talk about your child or someone you know who has a kid and the important relationship between a parent and their child.**

-Verse 35 says "The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands."

-Many of you know that I have a son. As his dad it is my job to teach him everything I know. I want my son to do greater things than I have ever done because I love him very much, more than he will ever know. But if my son doesn't obey me he will never learn. If my son wants to become an amazing man of God then he has to listen and believe his father.

-Walter can believe that I am his dad but never listen and obey me right? If he wants to be a great person and become better, then he has to listen and obey me.

-It is the same thing with us and Jesus. It is not enough to just believe in Jesus We must obey Him. We must learn and grow from the example that Jesus sets. This is because Jesus is our only way to heaven. If we believe He is the Son of God then we should obey Him.

## Response & Altar

- Salvation and rededication.
- **Have students respond by having them write ways that they can make room for Jesus in their everyday lives.**