

## Lift Jesus Higher

John 3:22-36 / March 26, 2023

<sup>22</sup>After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. <sup>23</sup>Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. <sup>24</sup>(This was before John was put in prison.) <sup>25</sup>An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. <sup>26</sup>They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan – the one you testified about – look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

- Big problem: someone else is becoming \_\_\_\_\_
- Playing the \_\_\_\_\_ → envy and insecurity

<sup>27</sup>To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. <sup>28</sup>You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' <sup>29</sup>The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. <sup>30</sup>He must become greater; I must become less."

- Everything I have is a \_\_\_\_\_ from God (v. 27)
- I know that I have a \_\_\_\_\_ from God (v. 28)
- I know my proper place as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 29)
- Everything I do is to \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 30)

➤ Bottom line: Jesus brings \_\_\_\_\_!

<sup>31</sup>The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. <sup>32</sup>He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. <sup>33</sup>Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. <sup>34</sup>For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. <sup>35</sup>The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. <sup>36</sup>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

- Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 31)
- Jesus speaks with \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 32-34)
- Jesus is in \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 35)
- Jesus is the giver of \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 36)

➤ Bottom line: Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_!

Questions for reflection/discussion:

1. How are you tempted to play the comparison game, and how can this lead to envy and insecurity in your heart?
2. Instead of measuring yourself against what others are doing for God, what is one way that you can humbly step into your own specific calling from God and lift Jesus higher? How can this bring you joy?
3. Why is it important to be continually pointed to the truth that Jesus is worthy? How can this help you to “become less” and lift Jesus higher?