

“I Must Decrease”
John #7
John 3:22-36
November 12, 2017

Scripture Reading: John 3:22-36

Series Setup & Introductory Remarks

Prayer

Introduction

- Imagine the best man upstaging in a wedding

Big Idea: Pride blinds us to the truth that Jesus is greater than all.

- C.S. Lewis — Pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense.

Setup: Jesus Baptizing | vs. 22-26 (4:1-3)

- C.S. Lewis — Pride is essentially competitive—is competitive by its very nature—while the other vices are competitive only, so to speak, by accident. Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man.
- John 4:1-3 | Jesus’ disciples were the ones baptizing

The Why: Life is a Gift | vs. 27

- Two different mindsets: gift-mentality, or entitlement-mentality

The How: Know Your Vocation | vs. 28-30 (Example A: Best Man)

The How: Know Your Vocation | vs. 31-34 (Example B: Court Witness)

****Gospel Story: the biggest story we’re a part of**

- What’s our role? The ones who need rescue!

The What: Eternal Life | vs. 35-36

- R.C. Sproul — It is because of the love of the Father for the Son that we are invited to partake one day of the marriage feast of the Lamb. We are invited not simply as friends of the Bridegroom or as friends of the bride; we are the bride. Christ our Savior has set His love upon us and betrothed us to Himself. He who died for us will come again someday to receive us to Himself.

Conclusion

- Joseph Hart — Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream. All the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him

The Lord's Table

Revelation 19:6-9 — ⁶Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure" — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹ And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Benediction | Romans 11:33, 36

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.