

# Sermon Outline

HE MUST BECOME GREATER ... | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: John 3:22-36 (page. 1513)

## The story so far ...

Jn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ...

Jn 1:29 "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world"

Jn 2:11 The first of the signs through which He revealed His glory ...

Jn 3:16 "For God so loved the world ..."

## 1. The problem (vv22-26)

Jn 3:22 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."

Jn 2:6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

## 2. John the Baptist's response (vv27-30)

Jn 3:27 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.**"

Jn 1:19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup> He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

- bride, groom, best man

- "John's role must recede so that Jesus might succeed"

- Christians always come second because Jesus always comes first

## 3. John the Author's comment (vv31-36)

Jn 3:31 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.

- the one who comes from above/heaven = Jesus
- the one who is from the earth = John the Baptist

- John the Baptist is significant (but secondary)

- love is at the very heart of God

## So what, for us?

**For discussion:** what could motivate you to want Jesus to become greater (even as you become less)?

Q. What do YOU take joy in?

Rev 21:1 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.