

MESSAGE NOTES

OCTOBER 15/18, 2020

COME AND SEE | IS JESUS GREATER?

JOHN 3:22-36

BIG IDEA

Because Jesus is greater, He must become greater.

BACKGROUND INFO

- Judaism traces back to Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees around 2,000 BCE.
- The Buddha was born in Lumbini, Nepal 563 BCE.
- Muhammad was born in Mecca 570 CE.
- Taoism and Hinduism has no known founder or founding date.
- Joseph Smith was born in Sharon, VT in 1805.

OVERVIEW

Introduction

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31

Is Jesus greater? (John 3:22-26)

The Setting: Judean countryside and Aenon near Salim

The Context: An argument over ceremonial washing

The Problem: Jesus' growing popularity

The Question: Is Jesus greater than you, John?

- John had made it abundantly clear back in Chapter 1, they should know the answer. Remember what John said?
 - I don't deserve to untie His sandals. (John 1:27)
 - He's the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)
 - The one who comes after me has surpassed me. (John 1:30)
 - He will baptize with the Holy Spirit; I just do water baptism. (John 1:33)
 - He is God's chosen one. (John 1:34)

Why is Jesus greater? (John 3:31-36)

- John (the writer of this gospel) has said a lot already about Jesus:
 - He's the eternal creator, with God and is God. (John 1:1)
 - He makes us God's children and brings us into a relationship with God. (John 1:12)
 - He's God in the flesh. God's Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)
 - As God's Son, He is in closest relationship with the Father. (John 1:18)
 - The Word who perfectly makes God known. (John 1:18)
 - The Lamb of God who saves. (John 1:29)
 - The giver of eternal life. (John 3:16)

Why is Jesus greater? There are four unique claims:

1. He is God.

- a. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." (John 1:1)
- b. He has no beginning, He's eternal. (cf John 8:58)
- c. "'I and the Father are one.' Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him,...Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? " (John 10:30-31, 36)

2. He is above all. He rules supreme. (John 3:31)

- a. "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11)
- b. He is sovereign over all because He is God!
 - i. Over all people (cf John 17:2)
 - ii. Over every power and authority (Colossians 2:15)
 - iii. All things (John 13:3)

3. He received the Holy Spirit without limit from God. (John 3:34)

4. He is uniquely loved as God's Son by God the Father. (John 3:35; cf 5:20, 17:24, Luke 3:22)

- a. How does Jesus become greater in a person's life? (John 3:27-30)
 - i. Remember who we are/aren't. Humble yourself. (I Peter 5:6)
 - Live under the shadow of the cross.
 - ii. Be His friend, finding your joy and connecting your friends to Jesus.
 - iii. By placing your faith in Him. (John 36)
 - "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them." (John 3:36)
 - "The judge will be Christ. In other words, the one who judges us most finally will be the one who loves us most fully." (Frederick Buechner)
 - The greatest thing we can do for God is believe in the son He loves, and the worst thing we can do is reject the son He loves!
 - iv. Be intentional. He must become greater and I must become less.
 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:3-5)

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Is Jesus above all in my life, is He greater? How would one know?
2. What does it look like for you to become less and for Jesus to become greater?
 - a. What does it look like for Jesus to become "greater" in our schedule, at work, in our relationships, in our finances or at school?
3. Imagine what it would look like when Jesus becomes greater in our church, our community and our world?

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21:4)