

"Turning to Jesus"

John 3:22-36

John 3:22-36 - John the Baptist's purpose in life. Jesus' source of increasing success.

3:22-24 - Two men who knew their purpose and pursued it with passion.

John 3:25-30 - "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven." (27)

1. (3:28-29) - I am content in my life calling!
2. (3:28-29) - I am focused and working towards my God assigned goal.
3. (3:30) - It's all about Jesus.

Concept: Contentment is never the goal; it is the result of pursuing the goal that God has set for one's life. (Philippians 4:11)

John 3:31-36 - Are you ready for the wedding?

4. (31) Jesus, the Groom is from heaven and above all (John 20:30-31; John 14:1-6; Revelation 19:6-10)
5. (32-33) Jesus has seen things from God that only he can testify to.
6. (34-35) Jesus comes with gifts from God the Father.

- Thoughts on Jesus' life in the Holy Spirit -

1. John 1:32-33 - The Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 39:29) was sent on the prophets (Ezekiel 8:3) and from time to time on others, Kings, etc; but not until the New Testament did God send the Holy Spirit without measure (John 3:34-35) on the Son and after the ascension, to indwell believers (John 14:26; 16:13-15; 20:22; Acts 1:7-8; 2:17-18) and yet believers can grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) or quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

2. When we live in the Spirit, we can enjoy the love of the Father and walk in the Holy Spirit; becoming like Christ.

3. (John 5:19, 30; 6:38; 7:18) Without the active work of the Holy Spirit there would be no Savior and no salvation. He controlled Jesus and if we hope to be welcomed into heaven we must be cleansed and in-dwelt by the Spirit. (Ezekiel 36:23-27)

7. (36) Believing means that we obey God.

Conclusion: First, John the Baptist knew his role; and pointed people to Jesus. This is the calling of all disciples.

Second, the time of the prophets has ended (Outside to Inside). The Messiah has arrived and Jesus must increase. He will give the Spirit in a new way for the ministry of the Church. These

verses describe a change in how God will interact with his people moving forward (Inside to Outside).

Third, "The measure of success for any ministry is not how many people follow the minister, but how many people follow Christ through the minister."