

HUMBLE SERVICE

John 3:22-36

Like John the Baptist, we should seek to humbly serve our Savior.

I. BE DISCIPLINED IN CONDUCT (22-30)

- Note what John the Baptist reveals about himself

A. FULFILL YOUR TASK (22-24)

- John kept baptizing even though Christ's disciples were also now baptizing.

B. RESIST RIVALRY (25-26)

1. The dispute: John's disciples are engaged in a quarrel with a Jew about purification.
2. The defense: John's disciples defend him and inform him about Christ's recent popularity.
 - a. John has at his disposal those who wish to protect and promote him.
 - b. It is hard to resist the favor and determination of those who are devoted to you.

C. ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S WILL (27-28)

1. God's Right (27)
 - It is God's sovereign prerogative to commission whomever He wishes to do whatever He wills. - See I Cor. 4:7
2. John's Role (28)
 - He knew his place as a "preparer" and gladly accepts this subservient role.

D. REJOICE IN ANOTHER'S SUCCESS (29)

1. The friend of the bridegroom rejoices completely when the groom's plans are completely carried out.
2. He is happy in another's contentment.

E. GRACIOUSLY FADE AWAY (30)

1. John knew that it was incumbent that Christ increase and he decrease.
2. "The measure of a ministry's success is not how many follow the leader but how many follow Christ." (John MacArthur)

II. **BE DEVOTED TO CHRIST** (31-36)

A. CHRIST'S POSITION (31)

1. A Superior Origin
2. A Sovereign Oversight

B. CHRIST'S TESTIMONY (32-34)

1. The Record
 - a. What He has seen and heard He speaks. (32)
 - b. He speaks the words of God (34) - cf. Heb. 1:1-2
2. The Response: Many reject but some receive.

C. CHRIST'S RELATIONSHIP (34a, 35a)

1. Sent by God (34a)
2. Loved by God (35a)

D. CHRIST'S FULNESS (34b)

- The unlimited influence of the Holy Spirit.

E. CHRIST'S AUTHORITY (35b)

- The Father has given everything into Christ's hands.

F. CHRIST'S SALVATION (36)

- Christ rightly judges the responses of men with regard to himself.

CONCLUSION:

John was fully committed to carrying out his ministry and calling attention to his Savior.
- Do we humbly serve in such a way?