

7 *Divine Math*

John 3:22–36



Opening: Who are you sometimes tempted to envy? Why?

1. Read John 3:22–26. In your opinion, what motivated John's disciples to raise the issue of Jesus' ministry?

2. Read John 3:27-30. How did John view himself in comparison to Jesus?

3. How did John demonstrate by his attitude and actions that Jesus was superior to him?

4. In our message on Sunday, we noted that John understood the principle of stewardship. What happens when we begin to see everything that we have and are as God's?

What are some of the dangers of *not* seeing ourselves this way?

5. John also knew who he was and who he was not. His identity was not found in what he did, or in his popularity, or in his success, or in anything else. He knew that his identity was found in Christ. How are we tempted to find our identity? Is there anything that, if taken away, would destroy you?

6. Read John 3:29 again. What imagery does John use to describe his purpose, and how does this relate to us today?

The "best man" had many more responsibilities in Jewish marriages. It was his responsibility to attend to the needs of the bridegroom, and also to ensure the marriage couple's security and privacy.

In using the wedding analogy, John is drawing on a common Old Testament imagery of Jehovah as the husband of Israel (Isa. 54:5; 62:4; Jer. 2:2; 3:20; Ezek. 16:8; Hos. 2:19). The New Testament builds on that imagery and calls the church the bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:32). In the book of Revelation, this imagery is brought to a climax, when Jesus receives his bride and there is great rejoicing (Rev. 19:7-8).

7. Read John 3:30 again. What does this say about John's commitment to Jesus?

What would this look like if we put this into practice in every area of our life?

William Carey's legacy

It is said of the pioneer missionary to India, William Carey, that when he was close to death he turned to a friend and said, "When I am gone, don't talk about William Carey; talk about William Carey's Savior. I desire that Christ alone might be glorified."

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