

IT IS NOT ABOUT ME ~ JOHN 3:22-4:3

→ **Scripture Reading:** John 1:10-12, 1:13-14, 1:19-21, 1:22-23

EVERYONE SHOULD FOLLOW JESUS NOT ME ~ John 3:22-30

[22] After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. [23] Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. [24] (This was before John was put in prison.) [25] An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing.

[26] 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--well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him." [27] To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. [28] You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' [29] 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. [30] He must become greater; I must become less.

**→ John Experiences Great JOY knowing his ministry had Succeeded...
...people WERE Following Jesus Christ**

APPLICATION

John Did Not Fall Into The Trap Of Pride Because...

- *He Understood GOD'S GREATNESS*
- *He Understood HIS OWN SHORTCOMINGS*
 - They that KNOW GOD will be Humble and they that KNOW THEMSELVES Cannot be Proud. ~ J. Flavel
- *He Understood HIS ROLE*
- *He REFUSED Comparisons*

JESUS IS ABOVE ALL ~ John 3:31-36

[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. [32] He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. [33] The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. [34] For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. [35] The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. [36] Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

John 3:17-18 (NIV) *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. [18] Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

John tells us that JESUS...

- Came from heaven vs. 31
- is INFINITE has NO Limitation vs. 31
- is an eye witness vs. 32
- is sent by God vs. 34
- speaks the very Words of God vs. 34
- has the Holy Spirit without Limit vs. 34
- has ALL AUTHORITY vs. 35
- Gives Eternal Life vs. 36

JESUS RETURNS TO GALILEE ~ John 4:1-3

[4:1] The Pharisees heard that Jesus was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John, [2] although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. [3] When the Lord learned of this, he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

SO WHAT ??

Matthew 5:17 (NIV) *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (NIV)*

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD MUST...

- *be Based in what God has Done*
- *be God-Centered not Self-Centered*
- *be Based What God Approves*
- *go Below the Surface to Our Motives*