

THE FORGOTTEN JESUS PODCAST

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Season 5, Episode 12

The Best Man of the Bridegroom

John 3:22-36

Discussion

1. What does John 3:22-24 tell us about the setting of John the Baptist's ministry? Why is it significant that he moved to Aenon near Salim?
2. Why do you think John's disciples were concerned about Jesus' growing popularity (John 3:26)? What does this reveal about human nature?
3. In verse 27, John declares, "No one can receive anything unless it has been given to him from heaven." What does this statement teach us about our own abilities and roles?
4. How does John explain his role in verses 29-30? What does it mean that "he must increase, but I must decrease"? How can this principle be applied to our lives?
5. What is the imagery behind John referring to himself as the "friend of the groom" and Jesus as the "groom" in verse 29? How does this connect to the biblical theme of God's covenant with His people?
6. What does it mean that "the one who comes from above is above all" (v. 31)? How does this truth shape our understanding of Christ's authority?
7. John 3:34 says, "For the one whom God sent speaks God's words." What is the significance of Jesus speaking God's words, and how does it affirm His divine mission?
8. In verse 36, John makes a stark contrast between those who believe in the Son and those who reject Him. How does this shape our understanding of salvation?
9. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in this passage, especially in verses 34 and 36? Why is it important that the Spirit was given to Jesus without measure?
10. How does John's statement, "He must increase, but I must decrease," challenge our view of success and ministry in today's world?

Application Questions

1. How can you shift your focus from building your own "kingdom" to building God's Kingdom, as John the Baptist exemplifies?
 2. In what areas of your life do you struggle with pride or the desire to make a name for yourself? How can you apply the principle of "He must increase, but I must decrease"?
 3. How do you respond when others succeed or gain attention for things you've worked hard for? How can you rejoice in their success as John did for Jesus?
 4. What role does humility play in your daily life? How can you model John the Baptist's humility in your relationships?
 5. What does the reality of eternal life (as mentioned in v. 36) mean for your day-to-day decisions and perspective on life?
 6. In what ways can you point others to Jesus, like John pointed people to Him, without making it about yourself?
 7. When you encounter difficulties or setbacks in your life, how can you remind yourself that your role is to "decrease" so that Jesus can "increase"?
 8. How can you cultivate a heart of gratitude for the Spirit's presence and power, given without measure to Jesus, and to us through Him?
 9. What steps can you take to deepen your belief in the Son and the eternal life He offers?
 10. How does the truth of Jesus' authority over all things (v. 31) change your perspective on the challenges you face?
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Prayer

"Lord, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to redeem us. Help us to live with humility, always pointing others to Christ and decreasing so that He might increase. Give us the wisdom to understand our role in Your kingdom and to faithfully follow Your will. We pray for the courage to live out the truth of eternal life in our daily actions and relationships. May we honor You by making Your name known above our own. Amen."

Additional Resources

1. **Book:** *Lost in Translation: How the Word "Baptizo" Was Wrongly Transliterated* by Dr. Stephen Carlson
 - Explore the issues around baptism terminology and how it affects our understanding of the sacrament
2. **Article:** *The Role of John the Baptist: Forerunner and Friend of the Groom*
 - A deep dive into the life and ministry of John the Baptist, exploring his humility and dedication to preparing the way for Jesus
 - A continued exploration of John the Baptist's role in the story of Jesus' ministry.
3. **Video Teaching:** *Understanding Baptism in the New Testament*

- A study on the biblical meaning of baptism and why immersion is the proper form according to Scripture.
4. **Scripture Meditation:** John 3:22-36
- Spend time reflecting on the humility of John the Baptist and the greatness of Jesus, the Bridegroom, as a part of your spiritual growth.

This guide aims to foster deep reflection and meaningful conversation on the message of John 3:22-36, focusing on humility, Jesus' supremacy, and the importance of pointing others to Christ.