

## HE MUST INCREASE | JOHN 3:22-36

**Main Idea:** True joy is found in the exaltation of Jesus, not the exaltation of self. When Jesus get's the glory, We get the joy.

**The Setting-** 22-24

1. **The Increase of Christ** (25-26)
  1. Idolatry Disrupts Relationship with God
  2. ... Relationship with Others
  3. ...our inner-life
2. **The Decrease of Self** (27-30)
  1. John Trusts God
  2. John is Thankful to God
  3. John is Secure in his Identity
  4. John is Humble
3. **The Joy for Us** (31-36)
  1. How we get it- Receiving it as a gift (31-33)
  2. Where it comes from- Triune God (34-36a)
  3. What happens if we reject him- Wrath of God remains (36b)

**Scripture References:** *Matthew 6:21, Psalm 139:23-24, Job 1:21, James 1:17, John 1:12, Isaiah 62:5, Ephesians 5:32, John 3:16, John 7:37-39*

### **Quotes:**

#### Diagnosing Your Idols:

When you respond with bitterness and frustration, ask “*What am I loving so much right now that my heart is moved to feel this way?*”

*“If you ask that question... if you do this analysis, more often than not you’ll immediately be embarrassed, because many, many times the thing you’re defending is your ego, your pride, your self-esteem.” -Tim Keller*

*“Gospel-humility is not needing to think about myself. Not needing to connect things with myself. It is an end to thoughts such as, ‘I’m in this room with these people, does that make me look good? Do I want to be here?’ True gospel-humility means I stop connecting every experience, every conversation, with myself. In fact, I stop thinking about myself. The freedom of self-forgetfulness. The blessed rest that only self-forgetfulness brings.” -Tim Keller*

#### Prayer (Scotty Smith)

*Lord Jesus, I don’t care for a wardrobe of camel-hair clothing, and a diet of locusts and wild honey isn’t very appealing (Matt. 3:4). But I’d love more of John the Baptist’s joy—the joy of hearing your voice—the joy of your increase and my decrease. Even in his mother’s womb, John leapt for joy before you (Luke 1:39-41). I want to be **that** free, glad, and peace-full in your presence.*

*Then, like John, I’d be quicker to make much of you, and less of me. I’d serve more and whine less, encourage more and criticize less, give more and self-protect less. I’d accept that you, my Lord, give and take away (Job 1:21)—believing that both come as sovereign appointments from a throne of grace.*

*Such joy would free me for a life of contentment—because it’s anchored in you, not determined by people, possessions, or politics. I’d be quicker to love others as you love them, not as I want them to be. I’d savor the riches of grace more, and rehearse my disappointments less. I’d be smitten with your affection, and barely impacted by criticisms, digs, and slights.*

*Such joy would enable me to be present in the moment, and less preoccupied with the next thing. Make it so, Jesus; make it so. Refresh and supersize my joy in you....*