

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Jesus Must Be the Greatest

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
October 27, 2019

GREATER IMPACT

John 3:22-26 Then Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem and went into the Judean countryside. Jesus spent some time with them there, baptizing people. ²³ At this time John the Baptist was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there; and people kept coming to him for baptism. ²⁴ (This was before John was thrown into prison.) ²⁵ A debate broke out between John's disciples and a certain Jew over ceremonial cleansing. ²⁶ So John's disciples came to him and said, "Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us."

- **How we respond when we don't get the glory reveals our true heart condition.**

How do we ensure that Jesus Christ is first and foremost in our lives and our church?

John 3:27-36 John replied, "No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven.²⁸ You yourselves know how plainly I told you, 'I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.'²⁹ It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the bridegroom's friend is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. ³⁰ He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less. ³¹ He has come from above and is greater than anyone else. We are of the earth, and we speak of earthly things, but he has come from heaven and is greater than anyone else. ³² He testifies about what he has seen and heard, but how few believe what he tells them! ³³ Anyone who accepts his testimony can affirm that God is true. ³⁴ For he is sent by God. He speaks God's words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit. ³⁵ The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands. ³⁶ And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment."

We keep Jesus first and foremost by...

- **Appreciating all the gifts of grace.**

John 3:27

We keep Jesus first and foremost by...

- **Recognizing it's not about us.**

John 3:28-30

"Until a man is nothing, God can make nothing out of him." Martin Luther

"God is looking for people in whose hands His glory is safe." A.W. Tozer

We keep Jesus first and foremost by...

- **Following where Jesus leads.**

John 3:31-36

Big Idea: Jesus our King descended into greatness so we choose to follow where He leads.

What does this mean for us as people and as a church?

- **Let's humble ourselves under the loving leadership of King Jesus.**

¹ Peter 5:5-6 And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honour."

- **Let's seek to build up the Church in the City.**
- **Let's prioritize Jesus' Kingdom over Sequoia's interests.**
- **Let's elevate Jesus above all!**



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Jesus Must Be the Greatest
#1 of 5 – October 27, 2019**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

3) Read John 3:22-26. Think about a time when someone was more successful than you. How does our response to situations like this reveal the true condition of our heart?

4) Read John 3:27-36. What do you find compelling about John's response to Jesus becoming more successful? Reflect on v. 30. How does this verse challenge you in your current context? What would this look like for you to embrace a similar posture at home, at work or school, and in your neighbourhood?

5) Reflect on the 3 points mentioned to help us "keep Jesus first and foremost". Which one is the hardest for you to do and why? How would leaning into this help you keep Jesus at the centre of your heart and life?

6) Describe what it means for Jesus to "descend into greatness". How does this motivate and empower us to follow where Jesus leads us?

7) Read 1 Peter 5:5-6. In what way is God asking you to "humble yourself under the loving leadership of King Jesus."?

8) What are some action steps that we can take as a church to "build up the Church" in the City?

9) In what way is God asking you / us to prioritize Jesus and His Kingdom over your /our interests and the interests of Sequoia?

10) What will you do this week to "elevate Jesus" above all?



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