

More or Less

August 14, 2016

I. Introduction

- *To have something greater you must lose something less.*

John 3:30 (NIV) He must become greater; I must become less.

John 3:30 (ESV) He must increase, but I must decrease.

II. Why is baptism important?

John 3:22-23 After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized.

A. Baptism expresses the repentance of sins.

Mark 1:4-5 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

B. Baptism expresses the profession of faith.

John 4:1-2 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.

C. Baptism expresses the new life in Christ .

Romans 6:3-7 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

III. Distractions

- *You are distracted when you give more value to that which is less than to that which is greater.*

A. The Distraction of Religion

John 3:25 An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing.

B. The Distraction of Self

John 3:26 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—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

John 1:29-31 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

- *To have something greater you must lose something less.*

John 3:30 He must become greater; I must become less.

1. I choose Jesus' desires over mine

John 3:27 To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

2. I choose Jesus' will over mine.

John 3:28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.'

- *We always stumble when we try to be something other than what God called us to be.*
- *We always struggle when we try to do something other than what God called us to do.*

Matthew 26:39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

1 John 2:17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

3. I choose Jesus' fame over mine.

John 3:29 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.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

John 3:30 He must become greater; I must become less.