

# HEART CLUTTER



## ACCOUNTABILITY

- How have you paid attention to the voice of God in the past week?

## INTRODUCTION

- What can keep you from seeing Jesus clearly? Pray together, that he would help you remove or overcome those things.

## SERMON REVIEW

- Clutter keeps us from opening up to others, including God. Unfortunately, we don't notice it until we are stopped by it.
- We have too much; we are doing too much. It's weighing us all down!
- We need to practice the discipline of decrease, but we love our increase.
- Continuous increase is exhausting and unsustainable.
- God has made certain forms of decrease sacred and beneficial.
- We can look to the Scriptures for mentorship in decrease. One person that has much to teach us is John the Baptist, who said, "[Jesus] must increase. I must decrease." (John 3:30)
- He was born of righteous and upright, though barren, parents. He grew strong in spirit in the desert. Blessing can come from emptiness!
- John 3:22-26 – The disciples in this passage are that chose to remain with John, rather than join Jesus. They begin arguing about a recent event (ceremonial washing), which brought up old frustrations: Jesus, the guy that John endorsed, was baptizing and becoming more successful than he.
- Why do we get frustrated when someone else succeeds in our area?
- Perhaps jealousy. Maybe territorialism. Entitlement. Fear. Offense.
- The clutter within those disciples' hearts hindered their ability to see Jesus.
- The Idol of Uniqueness – Our core calling is gloriously common. We are *all* called to follow Jesus. But we so desperately want to be the first or the best at something, to stand out and be unique. This leads to arrogance and pride, which cloud our vision.
- In John 3:27-30, John the Baptist addresses the clutter in their hearts. "I'm not jealous or afraid or offended by his increase. My decrease is a sign of fruitfulness, not failure!"

## DISCUSSION

- Read John 3:22-30 together.
- Why do we tend to long for increase and avoid decrease? Should it be that always be that way?

- What makes the discipline of decrease so uncomfortable for us?
- What does this passage tell about ministry/evangelism and decrease?
- Based on what we've read, why do you think John the Baptist was able to embrace decrease?
- Could Christ have increased if John refused to decrease? What would have happened if John had decided not to decrease?
- So, in light of the last question, why is it so important for us to embrace decrease?
- What is our "gloriously common calling"? And how does it help us embrace decrease as we minister together?
- How can we make decrease a corporate practice? Specifically, how can we draw attention to Jesus, working together as a Community Group?
- How will you make an effort to declutter and decrease in the days ahead?

### CHALLENGE

- Determine what is cluttering your heart, and surrender it to the Lord.
- Follow Jesus in humility, doing everything you can to direct the attention to him.

### CLOSING PRAYER