

I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. John 17:4 (ESV)

But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24 (ESV)

What is the general mission God calls us to?

1. Learn to delight in the love of Christ.
2. Walk faithfully with Christ.
3. Tell others about God's love for us through Christ.

How does God call us to a specific mission?

1. God may call us to a specific mission in an extraordinary way.
2. God may call us to a specific mission in an ordinary way.
3. God may call us to a specific mission through tragedy.

Joy - When Jesus' fame increases and my fame decreases, I find joy.

The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:29-30 (ESV)

Application - What can I do to let Jesus' fame increase and my fame decrease?

1. In social situations, talk about Jesus instead of ourselves.
2. Rely on Christ in the crisis.

Check www.JOHNonJESUS.com for Micale's Christ Story

All teaching material is also available at www.christ2Rculture.com

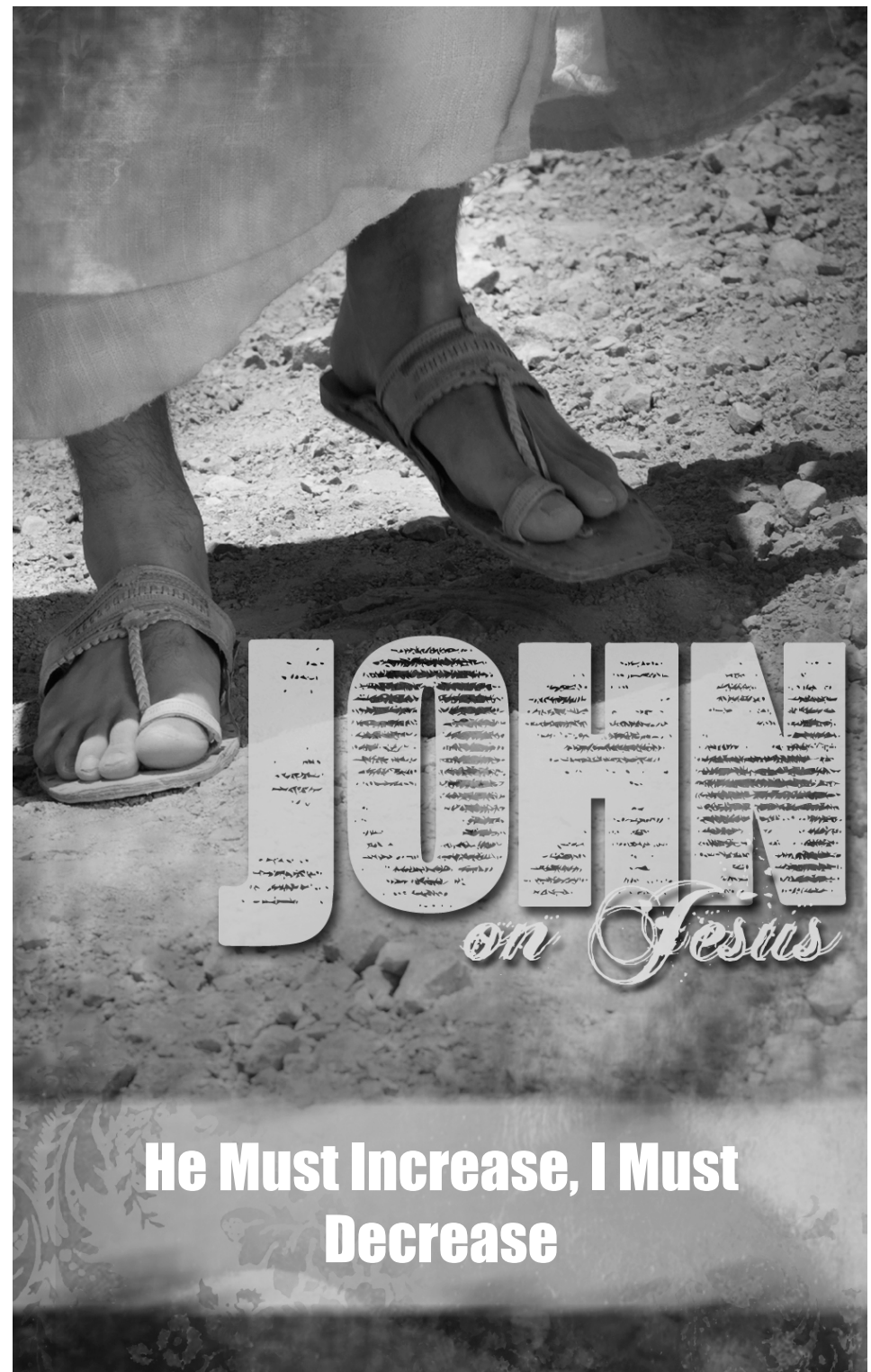
Podcasts of sermons are on iTunes. Search *Christ 2R Culture*

July 22: [John 4:1-42 - Jesus and the Samaritan Woman - Part 1](#)

July 29: [Bontrager Family Singers \(Pastor Kurt out of town\)](#)

August 5: Pastor Greg preaches (*Pastor Kurt on vacation*)

August 12 - [John 4:1-42 - Jesus and the Samaritan Woman - Part 2](#)



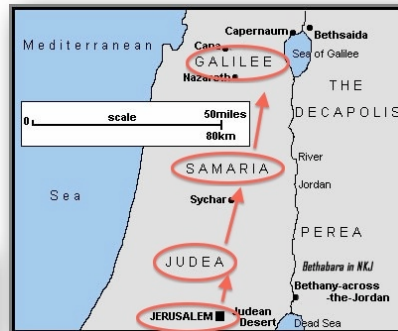
Faith Church - EFCA

July 15, 2012

John 3:22-36

What was the problem?

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized (for John had not yet been put in prison). John 3:22–24 (ESV)



Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." John 3:25–26 (ESV)

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds." Matthew 11:18–19 (ESV)

How does John respond to losing market share?

Sovereignty - Nothing can happen to me that is out of God's control.

John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. John 3:27 (ESV)

For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? 1 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV)

for he will be great before the Lord... And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." Luke 1:15–17 (ESV)

Humility - My job is pointing people to Jesus, not being their Jesus.

You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' John 3:28 (ESV)

1. John is from earth. Jesus is from heaven (3:31).
2. John has the Spirit but Jesus has the spirit without measure (3:34).
3. John is just a messenger. God gave all things into Jesus' hands (3:35)
4. Whoever believe in John gets wet. Whoever believe in Jesus has eternal life (3:36).