

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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DAILY DEVOTION MORE OF GOD AND LESS OF ME

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John 3:30 (NKJV)

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”

As we continue this journey of Lent, our focus must shift from ourselves to Jesus Christ.

We ponder the awesome of His ministry, His majesty, and His message.

Our journey to Calvary and the empty tomb takes us to one of the most striking statements of His forerunner, John the Baptist. In John 3, the disciples of John the Baptist became concerned and disturbed with the fact that a new Rabbi, Jesus, was gathering a larger following than John and was baptizing more people than they were.

In verse 26, they came to John 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.”

It’s so easy to get possessive and proud of our successes even in ministry! But John’s response startled them into what their real purpose was when he said, “I am filled with joy at His success! He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:29b-30 (NKJV). Talk about perspective! Let’s apply that to our lives.

Consider for a moment what John was saying. Eugene Peterson, a renowned American Pastor and Author paraphrases John 3:30 like this in The Message Bible, “This is the assigned moment for Him (Jesus) to move into the center, while I slip off to the sidelines.”

In fact, these words were among the final testimony of John the Baptist prior to his arrest and beheading. John knew his calling. It was always to point people to Jesus, the Lamb of God, and prepare a way for Him to come into His own ministry and role as the One who would take away the sins of the world.

So John was making a declaration we must confront in our own lives – More of Him and less of me!

Do you make such a declaration in your church as you go in the journey of faith? Perhaps you need to start doing it now!

If you desire for your faith and ministry to become more dynamic and your walk with Jesus more intimate, it is time for Jesus Christ to take center stage. There can not be more of Him in our lives until there is less of us! "He must increase, but I must decrease."

But be careful where you put the emphasis.

This is not about self-abasement but Christ replacement! Think of ways to fill your life with more of Jesus! Avoid any preoccupation with what you need to deny yourself of.

Let people's focus be on Jesus and not on you. Remember, the goal is More of Him and less of me.

Here are some suggestions in this Lenten period: More time with Jesus in His Word, more time with Him in prayer, more time in worship with others, and serving Him by serving others.

Lesser things that shift the focus away from His increase in our lives.

When He takes center stage of our hearts, lives and ministry, we experience more and more of Him every day until there is no more room for me, me, me!

This is Christ's replacement! He becomes greater and greater.

Apostle Paul said, in

Galatians 2:20a

[20] "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;....."

Make this the assigned moment in your life for Jesus to move into the center so He may increase. Your Christian life will never be the same! It will become Christ in you, not Christ and you.

Colossians 3:3 NLT.

"For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God."

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, continue to increase in me and let me continue to decrease until it will be You in me and not You and me, take the center stage of my life in Jesus name.