

Downward Mobility

1. In verse 22 we find that Jesus' followers were baptizing. (Note the clarification in 4:2 stating that Jesus Himself did not baptize.) Why is baptism important? Was there any difference between baptism then and baptism now?
2. The disciples of John disputed with the Pharisees. What are some of the end results of disputing? Are there some good things that can come out of them?
3. What concerns do you think the disciples of John the Baptist were wrestling with in verse 26? What are some potential "competition" issues in our church or churches today?
4. What was John's comment concerning Heaven? What does this reveal about his attitude?
5. What is it like to be a Best Man or Maid of Honor? What characteristics do such individuals require?
6. What is it like to turn over a dream to someone else or step down from a project? How can we handle those times when God wants us to decrease?
7. Verses 31-36 contain John the Baptist's explanation of why Jesus must increase. What are some of the reasons?

John 3:22-36 ²²After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. ²³Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. ²⁴For John had not yet been thrown into prison.

²⁵Then there arose a dispute between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification. ²⁶And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!"

²⁷John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' ²⁹He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. ³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease. ³¹He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³²And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony. ³³He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. ³⁴For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand. ³⁶He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Read: John 4:1-18

Monday

1-3 — What is the significance of the Pharisees' awareness of Jesus' growing popularity? What do you think Jesus did not personally baptize the followers?

Tuesday

4,5 — Did Jews usually go through Samaria? Why would Jesus "need" to pass through there? What was the relationship between Samaritans and Jews?

Wednesday

6-9 — What did Jesus ask of the woman? Why would this be significant? Where were the disciples?

Thursday

10-12 — What type of water did Jesus offer? What was the woman's response?

Friday

13-15 — Describe the "Living Water." List how Jesus has been refreshing to you.

Saturday

16-18 — Why did Jesus tell the woman to call her husband? What did this allow Jesus to do?

What questions do you have from this passage?
