

John 3:22-30

Sunday, May 15, 2022

Then Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem and went into the Judean countryside. Jesus spent some time with them there, baptizing people. 23 At this time John the Baptist was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there; and people kept coming to him for baptism. 24 (This was before John was thrown into prison.) 25 A debate broke out between John's disciples and a certain Jew over ceremonial cleansing. 26 So John's disciples came to him 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." 27 John replied, "No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. 28 You yourselves know how plainly I told you, 'I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.' 29 It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the best man is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. 30 He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

John 3:22-30 NLT

2 **Remember** how the LORD your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands. 3 Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. 4 For all these forty years your clothes didn't wear out, and your feet didn't blister or swell.

7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land of flowing streams and pools of water, with fountains and springs that gush out in the valleys and hills. 8 It is a land of wheat and barley; of grapevines, fig trees, and pomegranates; of olive oil and honey. 9 It is a land where food is plentiful and nothing is lacking. It is a land where iron is as common as stone, and copper is abundant in the hills.

10 When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. 11 "But that is the time to be careful! **Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the LORD your God ...**

12 For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, 13 and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful! 14 **Do not become proud at that time and forget the LORD your God...**

15 Do not forget that he led you through the great and terrifying wilderness with its poisonous snakes and scorpions, where it was so hot and dry. He gave you water from the rock! 16 He fed you with manna in the wilderness, a food unknown to your ancestors...

17 He did all this so you would never say to yourself, 'I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.' 18 Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful...

Deuteronomy 8, selected verses from NLT

17 "Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' 18 "But you are to remember the LORD your God, for **it is He who is giving you power to make wealth...**

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 NASB

26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. 27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. 28 God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. 29 **As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.** 30 **God** has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit **God** made him to be wisdom itself. **Christ** made us right with God; **he** made us pure and holy, and **he** freed us from sin. 31 Therefore, as the Scriptures say, **"If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD."**

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

7 For who considers you as superior? **What do you have that you did not receive?**
And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

1 Corinthians 4:7

1. Everything we have - our position, our power, our wealth, our health, our gifts, our talents, our natural disposition, etc. - we have received from God.

2. Our Purpose is to Exalt Jesus

28 You yourselves know how plainly I told you, 'I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.' 29 It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the best man is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. 30 **He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.**

John 3:28-30 NLT

He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

John 3:30 NLT

He must increase, but I must decrease.

John 3:30 NASB

The Lord has spoken out against Jacob; his judgment has fallen upon Israel. 9 And the

people of Israel and Samaria, who spoke with such pride and arrogance, will soon know it. 10 They said, "We will replace the broken bricks of our ruins with finished stone, and replant the felled sycamore-fig trees with cedars." 11 But the LORD will bring Rezin's enemies against Israel and stir up all their foes.

Isaiah 9:8-11

For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's

Good News?

1 Peter 4:17

If My people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways...

2 Chronicles 7:14