

Following on from Sundays service, there is so much that can be drawn from the life of John the Baptist. Let's spend some time thinking about his statement "He must become greater, I must become less." Here it is in context from John's Gospel Ch3:26-30

They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan - the one you testified about (Jesus) - look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him."

To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He must become greater; I must become less."



The essence of this scene can resonate in our everyday lives. Up until now, John has been the talk of the town, and people were flocking to see him. Now people are not so interested in him anymore, but more interested in Jesus. However, because John is secure in his place in God's heart, this doesn't leave him feeling less valued, rather he is delighted to have played his part in God's plan.

Life is changing all around us all the time, people come and go, and sometimes we can feel left behind or overlooked.

Has someone in your social circle/work environment/ suddenly been elevated or promoted?

How did that make you feel?

Perhaps you have been promoted in some way, how did the people around you respond?

John the Baptist's response "He must become greater, I must become less" is a wonderful antidote to some of the issues that can trouble us. We too, can invite Jesus to become greater in our lives.

When the influence of Jesus increases in our lives, we experience deeper peace, we find purpose in the tiny things in life, our compassion for other people grows, and we find security in our unique place in God's plan, not in how we compare to other people.

John is also joyful at the prospect of the influence of Jesus growing, and his declining. It is the same for us, as the influence of Jesus increases in our lives, so does our joy.

Less is More!! In God's economy, as we choose to become less with Jesus, we actually become more! In Matt 10:39 Jesus says, "Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."

How do I facilitate the influence of Jesus increasing in my life?

Am I ready to step aside if the situation arises to allow someone else to fulfil their role/ministry?