

# HE **MUST** INCREASE

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## He Must Increase... *In Our Hearts*

### **Warm-Up Question:**

What comes to mind when you think of “Jesus increasing” in your life?

**READ: John 1:19-27; 3:22-30**

### **I. HE MUST INCREASE IN OUR HEARTS: DIAGNOSTIC**

- ▶ What is John trying to communicate in his response to the question in VS. 20?
- ▶ “Christ” refers to the “Messiah/Savior.” We would never say, “I am the Christ,” but what are some ways or areas of life you are tempted to act as if you believe you are independent, self-sufficient... where you act like the savior.
- ▶ Why might it be the most freeing thing ever to resign from trying to be the savior, for you to decrease and Jesus increase in some areas you mentioned?

### **II. HE MUST INCREASE IN OUR HEARTS: DEEPER**

- ▶ You might be tempted to think “Jesus increasing” in your life means you just need to try harder and do better. Read John 6:28-29 and discuss what our primary “work” will always be to see Jesus increase in our life.
- ▶ How does Jesus “increase” through the ordinary means of grace, such as through worship, hearing sermons, being in a small group, and prayer?
- ▶ John 3:30 says Jesus “must” increase. Theologians call this a divine “must,” pointing to God’s desire and promise and power to see it happen. How does that encourage you?

### **III. HE MUST INCREASE IN OUR HEARTS: DIFFERENCE**

- ▶ If you were to truly see Jesus increasing and you decreasing, discuss how that would surely lead to an increase in:
  - ▶ Humility... the freedom of self-forgetfulness?
  - ▶ Kingdom mindset... where you prioritize Jesus in all of life?
  - ▶ Joy... even where things are hard in your life?

**What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?**

VISION INITIATIVE  
Week 1

For Prayer Time:

- ▶ Pray that God would help you identify areas in your life where Jesus needs to increase.
- ▶ Pray Jesus would increase and you would decrease... and you’d see the fruit of that.



SEVEN RIVERS  
C H U R C H

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### Scripture Passages Used:

**John 1:19** And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” **20** He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” **21** And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” **22** So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” **23** He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

**John 1:24** (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) **25** They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” **26** John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, **27** even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

**John 3:22** After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing. **23** John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized **24** (for John had not yet been put in prison).

**John 3:25** Now a discussion arose between some of John’s disciples and a Jew over purification. **26** 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.” **27** John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. **28** You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.’ **29** 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. **30** He must increase, but I must decrease.”

**John 6:28** Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” **29** Jesus answered them, “**This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.**”