

I. John the Baptist's Popularity

2000 years ago – many would have been predicting John the Baptist to be the _____.

At this point, Jesus was an _____ factor: a _____, a nobody from a small town. He spent his first 30 years living quietly as a carpenter.

“Among you stands one you do not know” – John 1:26

Many people looked at Jesus and thought, “Surely not this guy!” But, they liked the _____ and _____ personality of John the Baptist. John offers a great insight here that in many ways can summarize the _____ of a Christian... “He must become greater. I must become less.” - John 3:30

II. What Needs to Become Smaller so Jesus Can Become Greater?

And, here is a really tough part about that question ... it might even be something that's _____.

1) Something that might have to become smaller is our loyalty and devotion to certain human _____ and _____.

Pope Francis: “The Holy Father is not looking to become famous or to receive honors. But, if the choice of Person of Year helps spread the message of the _____ — a message of _____ for everyone — he will certainly be happy about that.”

“In ideologies there is not Jesus: His tenderness, His love, His meekness. And ideologies are rigid, always...”

2) Our loyalty to _____, or _____, or certain ideologies is our next example of something that needs to become smaller so that Jesus can become greater.

“There are two kinds of repentance to be a Christian. First, you need to repent of your sins. But, second, you need to repent of your _____.” - George Whitefield

3) Something else that might have to become smaller in order for Jesus to become greater is our own _____. Our _____ of ourselves. Humility is not about _____ ourselves, but it does mean thinking about ourselves _____.

Conclusion:

So, every day we want to keep working on the goal of making Jesus greater in our lives. Every day we want to _____ Him more. Every day we want less of our _____ and less of our _____.

Questions for Further Reflection or Discussion:

- 1) What can you learn about Christian humility from John the Baptist?
- 2) What is a change you can make in your life in order to more clearly and consistently point others toward Jesus?
- 3) What are the dangers with too much loyalty to “organizations, ideologies, or causes” when they might even be aligned with Christian values?