

**"Climbing Down the Ladder of Success"**

**John 3:22-36**

**March 15, 2015**

*Question: How does John the Baptist handle the question of why the ministry of Jesus has grown larger than his ministry: (Four Truths)*

Truth #1: John the Baptist understood that his ministry had been given to him by God. (v.27)

Truth #2: John the Baptist understood his mission was to be the forerunner of the Messiah. (v. 28)

A forerunner had three primary responsibilities:

1. The forerunner was to clear the way.
2. The forerunner was to prepare the way.
3. The forerunner was to get out of the way.

Truth #3: John the Baptist understood his position that he was not the bridegroom but the friend of the bridegroom. (v.29)

Truth #4: John the Baptist understood that in God's economy you climb down the ladder of success. (v.30)

*Five points John the Baptist uses to prove the supremacy of Jesus Christ over himself:*

1. John informs us that Jesus is superior to him because of where He has come from. (v.31)
2. John informs us that Jesus is superior to him in that of which He speaks.(v.32)
3. John informs us that Jesus speaks as One who has the fullest measure of the Spirit of God. (v. 33, 34)
4. John informs us that Jesus is loved by His Father in heaven and has been given the Father's authority. (v.35)
5. John informs us that the destiny of every human being rests solely on Jesus Christ. (v. 36)

*Application on how to climb down the ladder of success:*

Remember that all leaders serve at God's pleasure.

True joy comes from completing your Christian mission, not from how much money you make or what position you hold.

Genuine humility calls attention to Jesus Christ, not to self.