



DOWN
TO
EARTH

JOHN 1-6

Today's Worship Service

PRAISE

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. (Psalm 29:2)

Call To Worship

Matt Hagemann

["Only A Holy God"](#)

Smith, Robinsin, Farren, Thompson

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Mike Matheson

RENEWAL

As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12)

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Mike Matheson

["We Have Been Healed"](#)

Gunderlock, Kauflin

["The Finished Work of Christ"](#)

D'Acquisto, Matheson, Poore

["Jesus"](#)

Leonard, Poore

Offering

PROCLAMATION

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:4)

Reading of the Word

[John 3:22-36](#)

Karen Sytsma

Reader: This is God's Word for us today.

All: Thanks be to God.

Preaching of the Word

Pastor Mike Matheson

RESPONSE

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. (Psalm 63:3)

["Jesus Is Better"](#)

Ivey, Land

Benediction

Pastor Mike Matheson

Sermon Review Discussion Questions

These questions are for *after* the sermon and can be used for Life Group discussion, one-to-one discipleship, or personal reflection and application.

After the significant conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, the story turns back to John the Baptist. His disciples notice that people are starting to go to Jesus. How does John respond? Is he jealous? Is Jesus his rival? Not at all. John's role was to point people to Christ. For John, it isn't about his popularity or his significance. His witness has been consistent: "I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him" ([3:28](#)). Said differently, Jesus is better, and it ain't even close.

Discussion Questions

1. Would you describe yourself as a competitive person? What triggers your competitive spirit? Who have been significant rivals or rivalries you've had in your life?
2. In your own words, how would you describe John the Baptist's role? How is his reaction to his disciples consistent with his appointed role? How does John's attitude give us direction for how we should operate as witnesses of Christ?
3. How does John communicate that Jesus is better than himself? Why might this surprise someone reading this Gospel for the first time? Why is it so hard for us to admit when someone is better than us? How can we live out "He must increase, but I must decrease"?
4. Why is it significant from where Jesus came ([v. 31](#))? Consider how much Jesus has seen, heard, and witnessed ([v. 32](#)). How does one's response to his testimony reflect their response to God? How does Jesus' testimony inspire your own worship?
5. What are ways you are tempted to see Jesus as a rival? Are there areas of your life competing with Jesus? What is at stake if we elevate anything above Jesus? What is the blessing assured to those who acknowledge that Jesus is better?

In-Sermon Focus Questions

These questions are designed to keep you engaged during the sermon.

1. What "rivalry" is being set up in this passage?
2. What is the main idea of this story?
3. What principle does John the Baptist provide in his response ([v. 27](#))?
4. How does John apply that principle ([v. 30](#))?
5. Why (three reasons) can we say with confidence, "Jesus is better"?

Sermon Notes

Preacher: Pastor Mike Matheson

Sermon: Above All

Scripture: [John 3:22-36](#)

Date: March 15, 2020

Next Week's Sermon Preparation

These questions are for personal use during the week to help you prepare for next week's passage, John [4:1-42](#).

Context

1. What has happened so far in the narrative? Have there been any major events, characters, or themes?
2. What has happened just prior to the section you are reading?

Observation

1. What do you learn about the main characters in this section? How does the author describe them? How do they describe themselves?
2. Is time or place significant in the events that happen in the passage?
3. Is there a conflict or high point in the passage?
4. Do you think there is a main point or theme in this section of the story?
5. What surprises are there?

Meaning

1. Are there any 'editorial' comments from the author about the events in the narrative? How do these comments illuminate what is happening?
2. Does someone in the narrative learn something or grow in some way? How? What does this person learn?
3. What does the passage reveal about who Jesus is, and what he came into the world to do?
4. How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

Application

1. How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
2. Is there some attitude you need to change?
3. What does this passage teach you about being a disciple of Jesus?

Adapted from: *One to One Bible Reading, A Simple Guide for Every Christian* by David Helm (Available at the Grace Book Cart)

For more information on this topic look into:

John: A 12-Week Study. (Knowing the Bible series) by Justin Buzzard

John 1-12 For You (God's Word for You) by Josh Moody

ESV Scripture Journal

Easter Flower Memorials

Easter Flowers are a beautiful celebration of the resurrection. If you would like to purchase a Lily, Hyacinth, or Daffodil in memory of a loved one please stop into the church office this week between the hours of 9:00 am & 4:00 pm, Monday - Thursday and 9am - Noon on Friday. These will create a beautiful display on Easter Sunday Morning and you can take your flower home after the service. Memorials will be included in the Worship Guide on Easter Sunday.

6" Lily Pot ...\$10

10" Lily Pot ...\$20

7" Daffodil or Hyacinth ...\$10

Membership & Baptism Class

Put down roots, grow in your faith, become a part of the family! We'd love to have you join us in membership at Grace.

- Meets: Sat., March 28th, 9-Noon
- Next Baptism Opportunity:
Sunday, April 12th
- Register at graceinracine.com

Vacation Bible School

[June 22-26, 2020](#); 9 am - Noon

Vacation Bible School planning has begun and we are in need of empty Pringles Cans (with lids) – 5.5 oz size only. Drop off with Rachel Menke at the Info Center.

Please pray for healing and recovery for those hospitalized or recently discharged: Georganne DeRose, Opal Traxinger (child), Brian Werle

Last Week: Sanctuary Attendance: 476 Children's Ministry Attendance: 105

Giving: Last Week: \$20,469 YTD: \$286,186 +/- Budget: -\$17,096