

Title: It's All About Me - John 3 22-36

Read:

²²⁻²⁶After this conversation, Jesus went on with his disciples into the Judean countryside and relaxed with them there. He was also baptizing. At the same time, John was baptizing over at Aenon near Salim, where water was abundant. This was before John was thrown into jail. John's disciples got into an argument with the establishment Jews over the nature of baptism. They came to John and said, "Rabbi, you know the one who was with you on the other side of the Jordan? The one you authorized with your witness? Well, he's now competing with us. He's baptizing, too, and everyone's going to him instead of us." ²⁷⁻²⁹John answered, "It's not possible for a person to succeed—I'm talking about eternal success—without heaven's help. You yourselves were there when I made it public that I was not the Messiah but simply the one sent ahead of him to get things ready. The one who gets the bride is, by definition, the bridegroom. And the bridegroom's friend, his 'best man'—that's me—in place at his side where he can hear every word, is genuinely happy. How could he be jealous when he knows that the wedding is finished and the marriage is off to a good start? ²⁹⁻³⁰"That's why my cup is running over. This is the assigned moment for him to move into the centre, while I slip off to the sidelines. ³¹⁻³³"The One who comes from above is head and shoulders over other messengers from God. The earthborn is earthbound and speaks earth language; the heavenborn is in a league of his own. He sets out the evidence of what he saw and heard in heaven. No one wants to deal with these facts. But anyone who examines this evidence will come to stake his life on this: that God himself is the truth. ³⁴⁻³⁶"The One that God sent speaks God's words. And don't think he rations out the Spirit in bits and pieces. The Father loves the Son extravagantly. He turned everything over to him so he could give it away—a lavish distribution of gifts. That is why whoever accepts and trusts the Son gets in on everything, life complete and forever! And that is also why the person who avoids and distrusts the Son is in the dark and doesn't see life. All he experiences of God is darkness, and an angry darkness at that."

Think:

In today's world it's all about getting noticed. If you aren't noticed you are a no-one. From pop stars to politicians, it's not about why you're doing what you are doing, it's about being seen. I bet it's the same a school or college for you too. Do you have to hang with the right group, or wear the right clothes, to be with the in group? When the focus of what you are doing is you, then it's easy to fall into that trap. But John the Baptist wasn't focussed on himself, he was Jesus focussed. When Jesus pitched up and started his ministry, John was the happiest guy alive. He wasn't grumpy about Jesus baptising people, he was chuffed, that is what he had wanted all along. I wonder if we are the same as John within our Church? When the old guys are having a meal for their old friends and our youth group can't use the hall, what do we do? Do we moan and groan, or do we shout brilliant, some old guys are going to hear about Jesus. When the nippers from the kids groups spend forever clearing up, so our youth group starts late, what happens? Do we say, brilliant, this is all Jesus focussed and help them clear up, or do we lean against the wall and grumble? I guess it depends on whether our focus is about us and what we get out of our church; or whether our focus is about everyone finding out about Jesus.

Pray:

Lord please let my focus always be on Jesus. Lord if I stray into the area where it is all about me, please use your holy spirit to remind me. Amen.

Action:

Let today be about someone else. Do something for someone else today. Hey you could even email them the aftershock.co.uk web address. Bye for now.