



John 3:27-35 (2 Johns?) John the Baptist; John the Apostle

vv.27-30, Quoting John the Baptist. Group arguing over doctrine.

John answered them [the group who put him to the test], "A person cannot receive even one thing unless God bestows it. 28 You heard me tell you before that I am not the Messiah, but certainly I am the messenger sent ahead of him. 29 He is the Bridegroom, and the bride belongs to him. I am the friend of the Bridegroom who stands nearby and listens with great joy to the Bridegroom's voice. And because of his words my joy is complete and overflows! 30 **So it's necessary for him to increase and for me to be diminished.**

John 3:27-35 (2 Johns?) John the Baptist; John the Apostle

vv.31-35, John the Apostle returns to the book itself (?).

For the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks from the natural realm. But the One who comes from above is above everything and speaks of the highest realm of all! 32 His message is about what he has seen and experienced, even though people don't accept it. 33 Yet those who embrace his message know in their hearts that it's the truth.

34 The One whom God has sent to represent him will speak the words of God, for God has poured out upon him the fullness of the Holy Spirit without limitation. 35 **The Father loves his Son so much that all things have been given into his hands.**

Philippians 1:17-21

Paul in jail, being super transparent

Those who preach Christ with ambition and competition are insincere—they just want to add to the hardships of my imprisonment. 18 Yet in spite of all of this I am overjoyed! For what does it matter as long as Christ is being preached? If they preach him with mixed motives or with genuine love, the message of Christ is still being preached. And I will continue to rejoice 19 because I know that the lavish supply of the Spirit of Jesus, the Anointed One, and your intercession for me will bring about my deliverance.

20 No matter what, I will continue to hope and passionately cling to Christ, so that he will be openly revealed through me before everyone's eyes. So I will not be ashamed! In my life or in my death, Christ will be magnified in me. 21 My true life is the Anointed One, and dying means gaining more of him.

Philippians 1:22-26

Paul in jail, being super transparent

22-24. So here's my dilemma: Each day I live means bearing more fruit in my ministry; yet I fervently long to be liberated from this body and joined fully to Christ. That would suit me fine, but the greatest advantage to you would be that I remain alive. So you can see why I'm torn between the two—I don't know which I prefer.

25. Yet deep in my heart I'm confident that I will be spared so I can add to your joy and further strengthen and mature your faith.

26. When I am freed to come to you, my deliverance will give you a reason to boast even more in Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:24-26 Caesarea Philippi, Jesus to disciples

24 ... If you truly want to follow me, you should at once completely reject and disown your own life. And you must be willing to share my cross and experience it as your own, as you continually surrender to my ways.

25 For if you choose self-sacrifice and lose your lives for my glory, you will continually discover true life. But if you choose to keep your lives for yourselves, you will forfeit what you try to keep.

26 For even if you were to gain all the wealth and power of this world with everything it could offer you—at the cost of your own life—what good would that be? And what could be more valuable to you than your own soul?

Table Time

1. Re-read Matthew 16:24-26
2. Discuss:
 - A. Verse 24: we must "reject and disown our own lives...And we must be willing to share His cross and experience ".
That is all-inclusive: agendas, beliefs, ego, passions, failings, faults, cares, concerns, anxiousness, answers and more.
WHAT THINGS AND FACTORS MAKE THAT HARD TO DO?
 - B. Verse 24, we are to "continually surrender to Christ's ways". That is a lifelong process of learning, doing, experimenting and suffering too.
WHAT THINGS COULD WE START, STOP OR CONTINUE THIS WEEK THAT WOULD BRING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE?

Calls to Action

Suggested dares: Go for *The Way More of God*

1. Hold your beliefs and doctrines in upraised open palms
2. Take in John's prior messages (<https://joychurch.life/messages/>)
 1. It's Not About Me, Part 1, 4/24/23
 2. What Will Jesus Do (It's Not About Me Part 2), 6/4/23
3. Watch and absorb "*The Chosen*", Seasons 1 through 3
Available on several streaming platforms. Host or join a group?
4. Plan to invest in absorbing Season 4 of "*The Chosen*"
Widely available in theatres next month; streamers coming later
Put together a group and watch together?
5. Do some surrender business one-on-One with Holy Spirit...

Playlist
Private time
with God
Surrender

You can also message us for the link
E-Mail: info@joychurch.life
Voice-mail or text: [775-575-9336](tel:775-575-9336)

