Dr. Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

John 3:22-36 | Humility in Ministry

Sunday November 22, 2026

KEYPOINT 1:

God's sovereignty keeps us _____.

KEYPOINT 2:

The Baptizer understood his _____ and

_____ in the Kingdom.

KEYPOINT 3:

Humility _____ human nature.

KEYPOINT 4:

We can only _____ to the degree that the Lord

_____.

KEYPOINT 5:

What John's disciples perceived as _____,

John saw as _____.

SERMON NOTES:

POP QUIZ

1. Who actually performed the baptisms during Jesus' ministry, according to John 4:2?

A. Jesus Himself

B. Jesus' disciples

C. The temple priests

D. John the Baptizer alone

2. What subject sparked a dispute between John's disciples and a Jew?

A. Purification

B. Paying taxes

C. Sabbath observance

D. The resurrection

3. What complaint did John's disciples bring to him about Jesus?

A. Jesus had stopped teaching

B. Jesus refused to receive visitors

C. Jesus was criticizing John's baptism

D. Jesus was baptizing, and everyone was going to Him

4. Treating ministry as a competition can cause us to view other believers as what?

A. Teachers and mentors

B. Threats or enemies

C. Guests and neighbors

D. Partners in prayer

5. What did John remind his disciples that he had previously said about himself?

A. He was the Messiah

B. He would replace the temple priests

C. He was not the Messiah but had been sent ahead of Him

D. He would always draw the largest crowds

6. In John's wedding illustration, whom did John compare himself to?

A. The groom's friend

B. The bride

C. The groom

D. A wedding guest who arrived late

7. In the wedding photographer illustration, what showed that the photographer had misunderstood his purpose?

A. He arrived without an invitation

B. He photographed the wedding guests

C. He asked the couple to stand together

D. He kept stepping into the photographs and making selfies

8. What distinguishes Jesus from someone who merely comes from the earth?

A. He received an education in Jerusalem

B. He comes from heaven and is above all

C. He began His ministry before John

D. He avoids speaking about earthly matters

9. How does the sermon describe the Holy Spirit's relationship to Jesus?

A. The Spirit rests upon Him without measure

B. The Spirit empowered Him only at His baptism

C. The Spirit replaced His divine nature

D. The Spirit gave Him the same limited assignment as every prophet

10. According to John 3:36, what remains on the person who rejects the Son?

A. The responsibility to earn salvation

B. The promise of eternal life

C. A neutral standing before God

D. The wrath of God

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Monday — Making Time for the Lord

1. Jesus spent time with His disciples. How intentional are you about spending time with the Lord, and what most often distracts you?
2. Where has busyness crowded out rest, prayer, or opportunities to fellowship with other believers?
3. What change could you make this week to spend less time in the world and more time with the Lord and His church?

Tuesday — Recognizing Jealousy and Rivalry

1. When someone else receives recognition, what does your first reaction reveal about your heart?
2. Have you allowed comparison with another person or ministry to weaken your gratitude for what the Lord is doing around you?
3. Who could you encourage or pray for this week as a practical way of celebrating the Lord's work through someone else?

Wednesday — Receiving Your Calling with Gratitude

1. How does remembering that your abilities and opportunities come from the Lord change the way you view your accomplishments?
2. John knew he was sent ahead of the Messiah. How can recognizing your own responsibilities help you serve faithfully without needing to do everything?
3. Is there a role, opportunity, or position you are treating as an entitlement? What would it look like to hold it with open hands before the Lord?

Thursday — Finding Joy in Making the Lord Known

1. John rejoiced when people went to Jesus. What brings you greater satisfaction: being appreciated yourself or seeing someone grow closer to the Lord?
2. How does the wedding photographer illustration challenge your motives when you serve?
3. How could you encourage someone needing joy this week?

Friday — Practicing Humility

1. What does "He must increase, but I must decrease" look like in my life today?
2. Where do you find it hardest to surrender attention, control, or credit, and what desire lies beneath that struggle?
3. What small act of humble obedience could you practice today, trusting the Lord even if no one notices?

Saturday — Responding to the Son

1. Are you receiving the Lord's testimony as truth, or allowing personal preferences and other voices to outweigh what He says?
2. John 3:36 contrasts believing in the Son with rejecting Him. Are you resting in the Lord for eternal life, and how could that assurance help you speak to someone who doesn't believe?