

“The Secret to Ministry Success”

John 3:22-36

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“He must increase, but I must decrease.” This statement made by John the Baptist is one of the greatest, most self-effacing, remarks ever made. It is the epitome of humility. John’s ever-humble attitude prompted Jesus to declare that John was the greatest human to ever live (Matthew 11:11). Today we examine John’s hallmark ministry priorities that should serve as the basis of every Christian’s foundation toward ministry success:

1. John had a successful ministry because he properly evaluated and confronted popular human opinion (3:22-28).

“John answered and said, ‘A man can receive nothing, unless it has been given him from heaven’ ” (27)

“John had been saying to him [Herod], ‘It is not lawful for you to have her’ ” (Matthew 14:4)

2. John had a successful ministry because he had an accurate and sober view of himself (3:29-30).

“He must increase, but I must decrease” (30)

“I am not worthy” (John 1:27)

“do not be wise in your own estimation” (Romans 12:16)

3. John had a successful ministry because he had an accurate view of Christ’s supremacy (3:31-35).

“He who comes from heaven is above all” (31)

4. John had a successful ministry because he had a balanced eternal perspective (3:36).

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (36)