



The Lord's Supper

A close-up photograph of a hand holding an open book. The book is held vertically, and bright, golden light rays emanate from the pages, creating a dramatic, ethereal effect. The background is dark, making the light from the book stand out. The text 'BOOK of JOHN' is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font. The word 'BOOK' is in a bold, sans-serif font, 'of' is in a smaller, elegant script font, and 'JOHN' is in a bold, sans-serif font.

BOOK *of* JOHN

KNOWING WHO YOU SERVE

JOHN 3:22-36

John did not want anyone to simply follow him; his ministry was to point people to the Lamb of God and urge people to trust Him.

- Note Paul's words in **PHIL. 3:17-21** and **GAL. 2:20**.
- *Jesus is the center of all ministry*—and there is no ministry apart from Him. All we do is because of and for Him. **1 COR. 3:4-6**



KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING

The argument in our passage began on very minor doctrinal grounds—“*the matter of purification*”—but moved to personal grounds.

- Jesus said it this way: ***Stop swallowing camels.***
MATTHEW 23:23-24
- John’s disciples were putting him into a situation of competing against the Lord Jesus!

WATCH OUT FOR COMPARISON AND COMPETITION

- John stated that all ministry and all blessings come from God through Jesus our Lord, so there can be no competition. **JOHN 3:27**
- Then John compared Jesus to the bridegroom, and himself only to the best man. **JOHN 3:29**

***There is no comparison or competition,
just one Bridegroom . . . Jesus.***

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

JOHN 3:31-36

1. Both Jesus and His *Message* actually came from heaven. **v. 31**
2. The *Message* came from God Himself. **v. 32-33**
3. The Father has sent us His ambassador—His own Son—with this *Message*. **v. 34-35**
4. The *Message* is that we might escape God's judgment and righteous wrath. **v. 36**

THE MESSAGE IS PERSONAL

- It is a ***LIVING RELATIONSHIP*** that begins with the new birth, and that birth is from above.
- It is also a ***LOVING RELATIONSHIP***, for He is the Bridegroom and we are a part of the bride.
- It is a ***LEARNING RELATIONSHIP***, as Jesus is the faithful Witness who shares God's truth with us.



“HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST DECREASE.”

JOHN 3:30

- He had to be lifted up on the cross so that we might experience forgiveness and eternal life.
- God gave us His own Son so that we might escape His wrath and have His love—eternally. May we never take this for granted!

I know who I serve: His name is Jesus!