

I MUST DECREASE

John 3:22-36

Learn: He must increase. But I must decrease. John 3:30

After Jesus had the night time visit from Nicodemus, he and his disciples came into the land of Judea. There they stayed for a while and baptized. Now this is NOT believer's baptism for those who accept Jesus as their Saviour, for Jesus had not yet died for our sins. This baptism was a baptism to show that a person was sorry for their sins (they had repented) and that now they would try to be obedient to God's law which had been given to Israel through Moses.

John was also baptizing in AEnon which is near Salim because there was a large amount of water there. Many people were coming to be baptized.

At this time John had not yet been cast into prison.

John's disciples and the Jews had a dispute about purifying. So they came to John saying, "Rabbi, He that was beyond Jordan, the one that you proclaimed, is baptizing also, and everyone is going to him rather than to you."

John told his distressed disciples, "A man can receive nothing that is not given to him from heaven. You know that I told you that I am NOT the Christ, but I was sent before him."

"It is the bridegroom that has the bride, not the friend of the bridegroom. The friend rejoiceth at the sound of the bridegroom's voice. So I want you to know that my joy is fulfilled."

John was telling his disciples that they should not be jealous for his sake. That now he, John would no longer be the center of attention, for the one he came to announce had arrived. And so that one, The Messiah, was the focus be the focus of all people, not the messenger John.

Then John said that word that is so important for each of us who calls on the name of Jesus for salvation must understand. "He must increase, but I must decrease."

Because Jesus "came from above, he is above all. Those who are from the earth are earthy." "Jesus tells us what he has seen and heard, but no man accepts his testimony."

"Those who do receive the testimony of Jesus reveal that God is true."

"He that God hath sent speaketh the word of God, for he has all of the Spirit of God. The Father loveth the Son, and has given everything into his hand."

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

So how are we doing today? Are we struggling and jealous because we or some one we love or follow is not the most important one and does not get the attention they or we want?

Remember: John had been THE most sought after one. Everyone went to hear John preach, All Israel heard of him, ---Then Jesus came and the people turned to Jesus, leaving John.

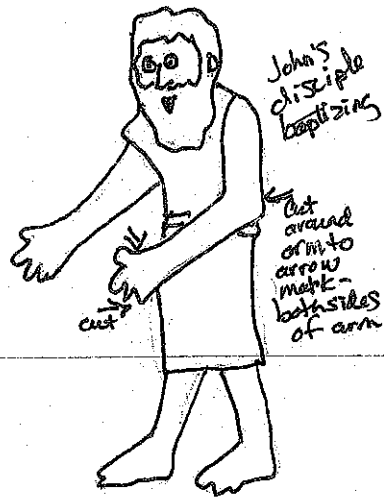
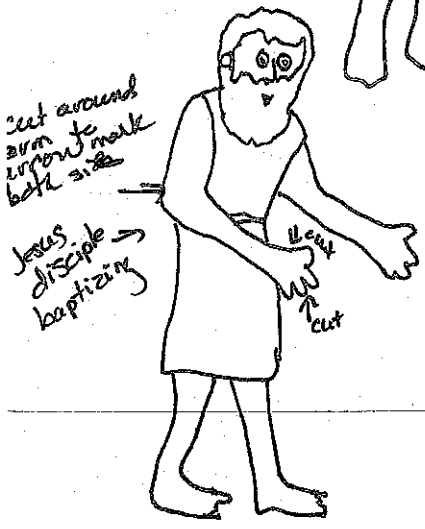
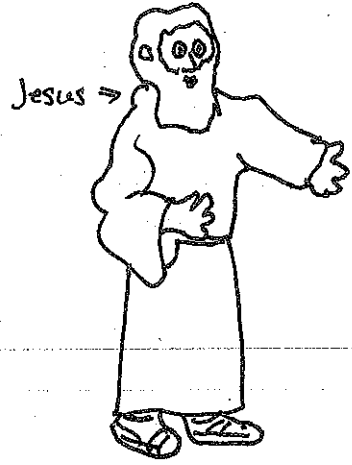
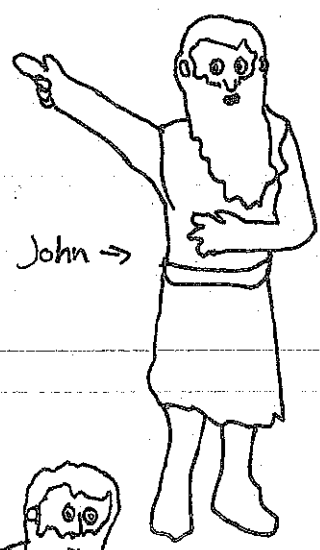
Remember what John said. "We can have nothing except God gives it." And each one who loves Jesus should be content with our place and not want someone else's position or place. In any case we are to get all people to LOOK TO JESUS, not to ourselves.

John gives us an amazing example of a man who sought only to serve God. He was not looking for his own glory, but for God's glory.

1. Water color or color scene - Scene sheet bottom edge fold up to indicated mark
2. Color all characters and cut out.
3. Paste on appropriate location. (Do not paste baptizers arms. Do not paste persons being baptized but use small fastener on x.)

Jesus + large group on left side of river edge

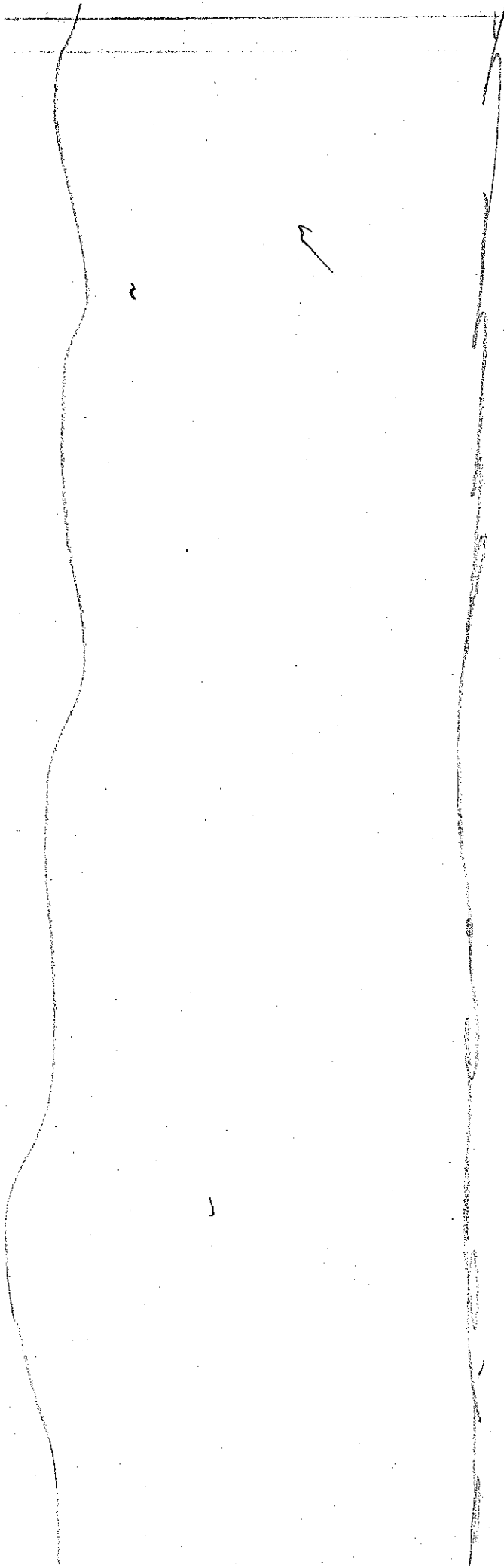
John pointing to Jesus + 3 followers on right side of river edge



1944-45
1946-47

1947-48
1948-49
1949-50

1950-51
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1952-53



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