**John 3: 22-36 How Should We Feel About Our Station In Life? 8/23/2020**

**Intro:** It is very common to feel like we missed out on something in life. Or some feel that we had a satisfying life, perhaps, but it is now gone to nothing more than memories. We so wish there could be more.

**Unbelievers**, many times, never question where such feeling come from. Stuck with just one nature, and one very short life, the consequences are tragic for them.

The **believer** should know why the longings are there! If no experience or relationship down here satisfies our longings, then we know that we were made for something much more than a bit of success down here, (or little success down here,) and then it ends.

We were made to enjoy another world. We are prepared for that reality in this world. The good of this world is great, but it only “suggest” our ultimate home and our ultimate relationship to God.

So, what is our station in life right now? Do we live on memory lane, or do we dread the future, or are we in tune with our station in life,,, right here,, right now?

I mean, right now, what is right before your eyes? What could be the result if you surrendered your, less-than-ideal situation, to the Lord and focused on that?

How do we tie into the plan of God, in the middle of our current station in life? You may be saved, but you may still feel sad today, thinking that you missed something; some clue was left unfound and maybe passed you by; forever. Maybe you feel like you are adrift.

So what could you do today to leave here and not feel that way? Maybe we can leave today and never feel that way again. What should we do?

Let’s pray right now as His church for this very thing! (PRAYER)

**TEXT INTRO**: John The Baptist had a call on his life that was so strong that we have trouble relating to it.

For example, seeing a child who sings with such quality that there is no doubt what their profession should be. We feel lessoned if something like that does not happen to us. Even the multi-talented don’t seem to feel satisfaction.

Christians don’t enjoy their longings, which I think are given by God. I think the enemy uses those good longings to make us feel, ironically, condemned. We need those God-given longings to propel us forward, but not at some maddening pace, nor to cause us to misunderstand.

John the Baptist went right to the top of the mountain. The greatest of sincere Old Testament prophets handing the baton to the Messiah to bring in a new age of closeness to God. He knew his station in life, yet had a hard and difficult life. He finds satisfaction in his station in life by seeing Jesus put into the spotlight as he retracts himself to a more common life.

**Did John ever doubt?** Yes, but the Word of God fleshing out in the life of Jesus cured it. Jesus had many wonderful things to say about this one servant of His. **READ Luke 7: 17- 35**

In case you did not know it, having a clear calling is not the key to everything! It is not a magic fix. It would be like saying your faith would be super faith if you had got to see what the disciples saw. But the Lord Himself said greater is he who has not seen, and yet believes. Peter still denied the Lord and had a clear call on his life and saw miraculous things.

Jesus may have some very **good** **things** to say about you when this is all over. Would that be so shocking?

Do you just think about the failures? Do you just think about your failures? Do you just think, I am a failure? Would that kind of hopeless foreboding be from God? Of course not!

What **good things** might He say to you?

The things you did because you did not care about your station in life, you only wanted to be faithful to Him; to please Him because you really love Him; that,,, really counts! Looking successful to the world be hanged! Amen?

**Text: Read Now John 3: 22-36 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**v.25** Probably about which baptism was more effective, or was the baptism of Jesus of deeper meaning. We don’t know.

**v.26** Sounds like John’s disciples were concerned John the Baptist was being disrespected or slighted in some way. John straightens that out in a hurry.

**v. 27** A rare person that can play second fiddle to someone else. John did so with complete humility. And that humility brought him so much joy! As humility always does! The easily offended rarely taste joy, because they don’t choose humility. You have to humble yourself!

**v. 28-30** I am always very careful about keeping the attentionon the bride and bridegroom when I perform a wedding. I could really stand out if that was my purpose, but I tone down at the risk of being demure, for the sake of keeping attention. I love doing a wedding where they are at the top, facing the crowd and I am at the bottom looking up at them during some of the vows. If during the reception, I am talking to someone and the bride or groom comes by I speak only of them. It is their night, not mine. Only a boor would take the spotlight away from a wedding couple!

**v. 30** “HE MUST INCREASE, I MUST DECREASE”

The old order is closing and the new life in Christ is coming in to stay. Book of Hebrews does a masterful job of showing us why the need is there and the nearness to God it brings.

**On a practical level, this is a great key to living the Christian life!** It results in your gifts and talents and your station in life being magnified, ironically, as you seek to point yourself and others to the sufficiency of Christ Jesus and not to yourself! HE MUST INCREASE; I MUST DECREASE-- A thing rarely desired, rarely seen! Truly one of the greatest thing ever said!

**v. 31-36** **“Spirit without measure”** Prologue played out - **1: 16-17** It is not our station in life that is holding us back. We need not try to make ourselves great; we need to live in the joy already given. You can assume it. We beg for things that we already possess! We will know it when we magnify the Lord. To put Him first in our thoughts and actions.