

**Encountering Jesus**  
**7. He must become greater (John 3v22-36)**

**John Percival**

**Introduction**

- a motto for life?

**The context for witness (v22-26)**

- the complaint (v26)

**The character of a witness (v27-30)**

- humility
  
- honesty

**The motivation for witness (v31-36)**

- who Jesus is
  - unique origin
  - unique testimony
  - unique authority
  
- our response

**Conclusion**

**John 3v22-36 (NIV)**

<sup>22</sup> After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptised. <sup>23</sup> Now John also was baptising at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptised. <sup>24</sup> (This was before John was put in prison.) <sup>25</sup> An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. <sup>26</sup> They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan--the one you testified about--well, he is baptising, and everyone is going to him."

<sup>27</sup> To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. <sup>28</sup> You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' <sup>29</sup> The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. <sup>30</sup> He must become greater; I must become less.

<sup>31</sup> "The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. <sup>32</sup> He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no-one accepts his testimony. <sup>33</sup> The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. <sup>34</sup> For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. <sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. <sup>36</sup> Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."