

John 3:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.

Analysis

John's disciples report with concern: 'Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him.' They see Jesus as competitor—someone John endorsed now surpassing him. The phrase 'all men come to him' expresses exaggeration born of jealousy. John's disciples haven't grasped their teacher's purpose: to decrease while Christ increases. Human tendency protects our teacher, our movement, our significance.

Historical Context

This competitive spirit appears throughout church history—movements jealously guarding 'their' disciples. John's disciples saw ministry in zero-sum terms: Jesus' gain meant their loss. John's response (verses 27-30) corrects this fundamentally flawed perspective.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does competitive jealousy between Christian leaders or movements dishonor Christ?
2. What does the disciples' concern reveal about misunderstanding ministry's purpose?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἔρχονται πρὸς τὸν Ἰωάννην καὶ εἶπον αὐτόν
And **men come** **to** ^{G3588} **John** **And** **said** **him**
G2532 G2064 G4314 G2491 G2532 G2036 G846

Ῥαββὶ ὃ ἦν μετὰ σοῦ πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου ὃ
Rabbi **he** **that was** **with** **thee** **beyond** ^{G3588} **Jordan** **he**
G4461 G3739 G2258 G3326 G4675 G4008 G2446 G3739

σὺ μεμαρτύρηκας ἵδε οὗτος βαπτίζει καὶ πάντες
thou **barest witness** ^{G1492} **the same** **baptizeth** **And** **all**
G4771 G3140 G3778 G907 G2532 G3956

ἔρχονται πρὸς αὐτόν
men come **to** **him**
G2064 G4314 G846

Additional Cross-References

John 1:7 (Witness): The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

John 1:15 (Witness): John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

John 12:19 (Parallel theme): The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him.

Isaiah 45:23 (Parallel theme): I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

John 11:48 (Parallel theme): If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

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