

John 4:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,

Analysis

Jesus' knowledge that the Pharisees had heard about His growing ministry demonstrates His omniscience and awareness of developing opposition. The comparison between Jesus and John sets up the transition of ministries—the lesser must decrease as the greater increases. Christ's sovereign awareness extends to all circumstances, including political and religious threats.

Historical Context

Pharisaic opposition to Jesus began early in His ministry (c. 28 AD). Their concern about His success relative to John the Baptist reflects their anxiety about uncontrolled religious movements.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's omniscient awareness of all opposition encourage us when facing hostility?

2. What does it mean that Christ's ministry supersedes even the greatest human ministry (John's)?

Interlinear Text

Ὡς	οὖν	ἔγνω	ὁ	Κύριος	ὅτι	ἤκουσαν	οἱ
When	therefore	knew	G3588	the Lord	how	had heard	G3588
G5613	G3767	G1097		G2962	G3754	G191	
φαρισαῖοι	ὅτι	Ἰησοῦς	πλείονας	μαθητὰς	ποιεῖ	καὶ	
the Pharisees	how	Jesus	more	disciples	made	and	
G5330	G3754	G2424	G4119	G3101	G4160	G2532	
βαπτίζει	ἢ	Ἰωάννης					
baptized	than	John					
G907	G2228	G2491					

Additional Cross-References

John 3:26 (Baptism): 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.

John 3:22 (Baptism): After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judaea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized.

2 Corinthians 4:5 (References Jesus): For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

Acts 10:36 (References Jesus): The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

1 Corinthians 15:47 (References Lord): The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

1 Corinthians 2:8 (References Lord): Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

