

他必兴旺，我必衰微

**He Must Become Greater,  
I Must Become Less**

约翰福音

Gospel of John

3:22-30

## 引言 Intro:

我们生活在竞争激烈的时代。

We live in very competitive times.

不幸的是，这种竞争精神可以渗透到耶稣基督的教会中。

Unfortunately, that competitive spirit can infiltrate the church of Jesus Christ.

以至于侍奉和敬拜神变成人与人之间的竞赛。

So that **serving and worshipping God** turns into a competition between people.

今天早上，我们想看作为弥赛亚的先驱的**施洗约翰**如何服侍上帝，学习他的侍奉心态。

This morning we want to look at how **John the Baptist** served God as a forerunner of the Messiah, and learn from his ministry mentality.

## A. 施洗约翰和耶稣的侍奉 (22-24)

### The Ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus' (22-24)

**约 3:22** 这事以後，耶稣和门徒到了犹太地，在那里居住，施洗。

**John 3:22** After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptised.

**约 3:23** 约翰在靠近撒冷的哀嫩也施洗；因为那里水多，众人都去受洗。 **24** (那时约翰还没有下在监里。)

**John 3:23** Now John also was baptising at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptised. **24** (This was before John was put in prison.)

这几节经文告诉我们耶稣和当时跟随他的门徒离开耶路撒冷前往乡区去。

These verses tell us that Jesus and the disciples who followed him at that time left Jerusalem for the country districts.

耶稣当时做两样事情：花时间和门徒在一起，以及让门徒给人施洗 (4:2)。

Jesus did two things at the time: spent time with the disciples, and let them baptize people (4:2).

第24节说“那时约翰还没有下在监里”，让我们知道神的工作正由施洗约翰的事工转移到耶稣的事工。

Verse 24 says that “This was before John was put in prison”, telling us that God's working is shifting its focus from the ministry of John the Baptist to the ministry of Jesus.

施洗约翰的事工接近尾声，而耶稣预备着开展他的事工。

The ministry of John the Baptist was drawing to a close, and Jesus was preparing to launch his.

耶稣让他的门徒与施洗约翰同行进行洗礼，是在吸引群众的焦点。

Letting his disciples baptize parallel to John the Baptist, Jesus was attracting the focus of the masses.

从来到他跟前的群众中，耶稣可以选取那些后来成为他的核心门徒的人。

From the masses that came to him, he could look for those who would later on become his core disciples.



第22节让我们看到**耶稣花时间和门徒在一起**。  
(中文和合本：“在那里居住”)

In verse 22, we notice that **Jesus spent time with his disciples.**

成为主的门徒最重要的是个人与主建立紧密的关系，对主有亲密的认识。

The most important thing to become a disciple of the Lord is that the individual establishes a close relationship with the Lord and has an intimate understanding of the Lord.

有一阵子，我们看见耶稣的事工与施洗约翰的相似。

For a while, we saw the ministry of Jesus was similar to that of John the Baptist.

他们都和门徒们在一起；两者都宣告神国度的降临；两人都施行水礼。

Both spent time with their disciples; both proclaimed the coming of the kingdom of God; both performed baptism with water.

施洗约翰和耶稣还有一点很重要的相似之处。

There is another important similarity between John the Baptist and Jesus.

那就是他们的事工不是由他们的追随者驱动的。

It's that their ministry wasn't driven by their followers.

约 2:23-25 说有许多人看见耶稣所行的神迹就相信他的名。

John 2:23-25 says that many people saw the miracles that Jesus did and they believed in his name.

但是“耶稣却不将自己交托他们，因为他知道万人，也用不着谁见证人怎样，因他知道人心里所存的。”  
(约2:24-25)

“But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. <sup>25</sup> He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.”  
(John 2:24-25)

施洗约翰也一样的没有任他的门徒摆布他的侍奉。  
他与耶稣都是尊从上帝的呼召的仆人。

The same was true of John the Baptist, who did not let his disciples dictate his ministry. He and Jesus are both servants who honor the call of God.

当两个人做着相似的事情的时候，就很容易让别人把他们拿来比较，引起同工之间的竞争和误会。

When two people do similar things, it is easy for others to compare them and cause competition and misunderstanding between the workers.

接下来我们就发现这样的事情也发生在施洗约翰与耶稣之间。

Next, we are going to see that this too had happened between John the Baptist and Jesus.

## B. 施洗约翰的门徒 – 侍奉的迷思 (25-26)

### The Disciples of John the Baptist – The Myth of Ministry (25-26)

约 3:25 约翰的门徒和一个犹太人辩论洁净的礼，  
26 就来见约翰，说：「拉比，从前同你在约但河外、你所见证的那位，现在施洗，众人都往他那里去了。」

**John 3:25** An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. **26** 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 – look, he is baptising, and everyone is going to him.'

施洗约翰的门徒与一位犹太人**辩论**洁净的礼。

The disciples of John the Baptist **argued** with a Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing.



**心情不好！  
BAD MOOD!**



辩论的课题是关于**洁净的礼**。

The subject of the argument was on **ceremonial washing**.

但是，来向施洗约翰报告时，课题变成是众人都往耶稣那里去了！

But, when they came to report to John the Baptist, the subject had turned out to be *everyone was going to Jesus!*



他们把那位犹太人与他们争论的事情怪责到耶稣身上来啦。

They blamed Jesus for the argument the Jew had with them.

他们是那么的生气耶稣以至于当向施洗约翰提到耶稣时不肖提耶稣的名字，而是说“**从前同你在约但河外、你所见证的那位**”。

They were so unhappy with Jesus that when talking about Jesus to John the Baptist, they didn't even want to mention the name of Jesus, but called Jesus "**the one who used to be with you outside the Jordan, you witnessed.**"

基本上，他们是对施洗约翰说：“你看，你支持他(耶稣)、把他捧起来，现在呢，不单是你两个门徒被他挖走了，本来应该是来找你给他们施洗的人，全部都跑到他那里去了！”

Basically, they were saying this to John the Baptist: “Look, you supported him (Jesus) and promoted him. Now, not only he stole two of your disciples from you, but all those who should have come to you for baptism ran to him!

为什么施洗约翰的门徒心里会对耶稣的成功那么酸呢？

Why was the disciple of John the Baptist so full of jealousy towards Jesus' success?

不难看出他们把侍奉上帝当作是追求自己的成就感。

It is obvious that they had regarded serving God as a pursuit of their own sense of accomplishment.

在侍奉上帝的过程中，他们不自觉的令自己的欲望成为了事工的主人。

In the process of serving God, they unconsciously *made their own desires the master of the ministry.*

我们有可能在侍奉中也陷入这样的光景吗？

Is it possible that we are caught in such a situation too in the ministry?

我们时不时的都须要在上帝面前检讨和反省。

From time to time, we *need to do self-examination and self-reflection before God.*

## C. 施洗约翰的解答 (27-30)

### The Reply of John the Baptist (27-30)

施洗约翰首先以一句谚语回答门徒。

John the Baptist first answered the disciples with a proverb.

约 3:27 约翰说：「若不是从**天上赐的**，人就不能得什麼。

John 2:27 To this John replied, 'A person can receive only what is **given them from heaven.**

对施洗约翰来说，他的侍奉不是只有他和他的事工，以及其他的人。

For John the Baptist, his ministry was not about only himself, his ministry, and other people.

在这一切之上有一位主宰的上帝。

Above all this there is a God who rules.

上帝是事工的主人，也是工人的主人。

God is the master of ministry, and the master of the workers.

没有人拥有侍奉上帝的**权利**，但每个人都领受恩典来成为他的**仆人**。

None possesses the right to serve God but each is granted grace to come and be his **servant**.

**林前 4:7** 使你与人不同的是谁呢？你有什么不是领受的呢；若是领受的，为何自夸，彷彿不是领受的呢？

**1 Cor 4:7** For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

论到做仆人，耶稣这样说：

On being a servant, Jesus says this:

**路 17:10** 这样，你们做完了一切所吩咐的，只当说：『我们是无用的仆人，所做的本是我们应分作的。』」

**Luke 17:10** So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, “We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.””



林前 4:2 所求於管家的，**是要他有忠心。**

**1 Cor 4:2** Now it is required that those who have been given a trust ***must prove faithful.***

施洗约翰的事工看来是趋于失败，而耶稣的事工是迈向成功。

The ministry of John the Baptist seemed to be failing, and the ministry of Jesus was prospering.

但施洗约翰知道他自己是忠心的，主也在主宰一切。

But John the Baptist knew that he himself had been faithful, and the Lord was in control.

施洗约翰回应门徒的第二点是：

The second point in which John the Baptist responded to the disciples was:

**约 3:28** 我曾说：『我不是基督，是奉差遣在他前面的』，你们自己可以给我作见证。

**John 3:28** You yourselves can testify that I said, “I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.”

关于耶稣，施洗约翰绝对**清楚他自己的角色** – 他是为耶稣做先锋的。

With regard to Jesus, John the Baptist was absolutely **clear about his own role** – he was a forerunner for Jesus.

他的角色是要做耶稣的**配角**，来达成上帝更大的旨意。

His role was to **play second fiddle** to Jesus, to achieve the greater will of God.

在他和耶稣之间，相比较和相竞争的问题是不存在。

The problem of comparing and competing between him and Jesus did not exist.

如果我们看各人都是**配搭的同工**，看自己只是**上帝的仆人**，我们就可以避免比较和竞争的问题。

If we see each other as **a complementing co-worker**, and look at ourselves only as **servants of God**, we can then avoid the problems of comparison and competition.

施洗约翰还用了一个比喻来回应他的门徒：

John the Baptist also responded to his disciples with a metaphor:

**约 3:29** 娶新妇的就是新郎；新郎的朋友站著，听见新郎的声音就甚喜乐。故此，我这喜乐满足了。

**John 3:29** 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.

施洗约翰说自己就好像是婚礼中的伴郎，耶稣就是新郎。

John the Baptist said that he was like the best man in a wedding, and Jesus the bridegroom.

就好像当伴郎的会为结婚的新郎高兴，施洗约翰也一样的为耶稣的事工的开展而兴奋。

Just as a best man would be happy for the marrying bridegroom, John the Baptist was excited about the prospering ministry of Jesus.

其实，耶稣的事工成功的开展表示施洗约翰 忠心的、成功的 **达成了他的任务！**

In fact, the successful launching of Jesus' ministry indicated that John the Baptist had *faithfully and successfully* **fulfilled his mission!**

为此，施洗约翰说耶稣事工上成功的喜乐是属于他(施洗约翰)的，而且这是一种 **满足的喜乐！**

For this, John the Baptist said that the joy of Jesus' success in ministry was his (John the Baptist's), and this was ***a complete joy!***

在我们的侍奉中，我们曾经领受到这样的喜乐吗？

Have we ever received such joy in our ministry to the Lord?

最后，施洗约翰满足又赞叹的说：

Finally, with satisfaction and admiration, John the Baptist uttered:

**约 3:30 他必兴旺，我必衰微。**

**John 3:30 He must become greater; I must become less. ”**

**这是侍奉的最高境界，  
最大的满足和喜乐！**

This is the supreme attainment  
in ministry,  
the greatest satisfaction and joy!

**愿主赐福每一位用心灵诚实侍奉祂的人**

**May the Lord bless every one  
who serves Him in Spirit and in truth**