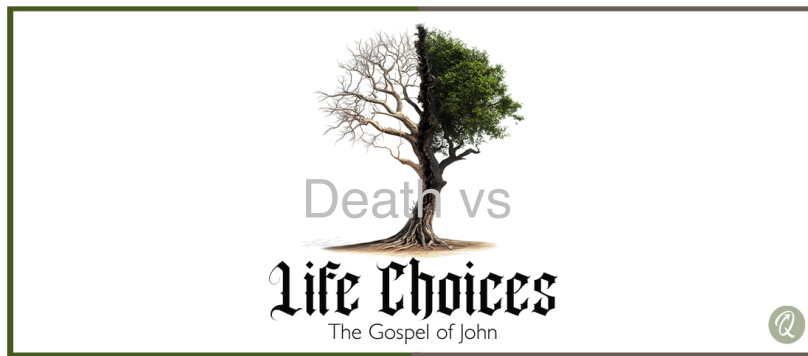




An important truth in following Jesus: _____.

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

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40:3

John the Baptist's purpose was:

To _____ others to Jesus.

To _____ of Jesus.

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

- How we respond when our faithfulness to God is not _____ shows the real purpose we live for.

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 baptizing, and everyone is going to him." John 3:23-26

Here's our problem:

- With any level of progress and success, someone has to get the _____.
- 17 Every good gift bestowed, every perfect gift received comes to us from above, courtesy of the Father of lights. James 1:17
- With any level of progress and success, we will experience _____ and _____.

Nothing reveals _____ more than when ours is attacked or what's ours has been decreased.

27 To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' 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. 30 He must become greater; I must become less." John 3:27-30

Our solution:

We have to understand that we're addressing our _____ and _____.

Success and greatness are:

- Being _____ to the king of the kingdom.

27 To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. John 3:27

Our solution to success and greatness:

- I know that they are _____.

What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift? 1 Corinthians 4:7

When our talents and platforms are about us, that pride will _____ us.

- I know why they have _____ to me.

28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.' 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. John 3:28-29

31 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. 32 He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. 33 Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. 34 For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. 35 The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them. John 3:31-36

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

Our purpose:

- Make Jesus _____ visible and make ourselves _____ visible.

Making Jesus greater:

- Let Jesus Increase in Your _____.
- Let Jesus Increase in Your _____.
- Let Jesus increase in your _____.
- Let Jesus Increase in Your _____.
- Let Jesus Increase in Your _____.

VISION:

**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

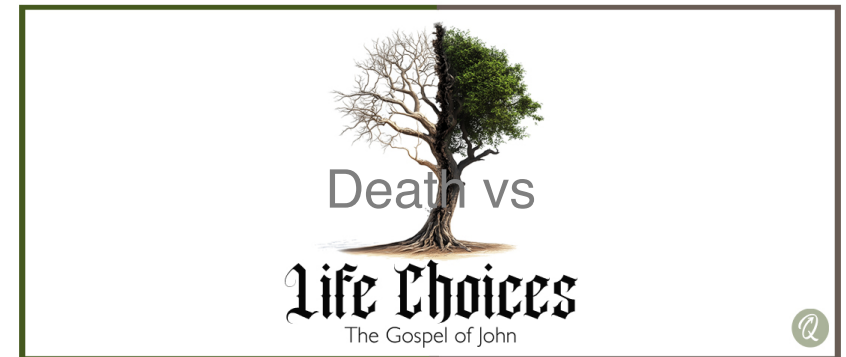
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Do you ever struggle with comparing your talents and influence with others? Have you been able to identify what success is for your life that removes jealousy and envy with others?
- Do you struggle with the statement, "Life is not about me"? What does that mean to you?
- Have you ever experienced a disappointment with God because your "faithfulness" was not rewarded as you hoped?
- Why do we need to resolve the issue of who gets the credit for our success?
- Do you have a hard time giving credit to God for the successes in your life? (Ex. Do you give financially to God because He has financially blessed you with a job?)
- How do you personally handle criticism and competition? Do you take it personally? Does it create tension with others?
- Do you agree that our success and greatness are defined by being faithful to the King of the kingdom?
- Is everything you have a gift, and do you know why it has been given?
- Talk through the sub-points on how we "Make Jesus greater".

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Sunday, October 26th, 2025