

1. What evidence of the temptation for spiritual stardom have you seen in our culture? How has it been a temptation for you personally as either a leader or a follower? Why is spiritual stardom so alluring?
2. Read John 3:22–25. What is the setting? What kind of a “discussion” are John’s disciples having with a Jew. Why is the issue of purification a big deal for these people?
3. Read John 3:26. What captures the attention of the disciples? How does their jealousy reflect what sometimes happens in our culture today?
4. Read John 3:27. How does John’s spiritual awareness show up in this passage? Why is what he says here critical for everyone engaged in ministry to remember?
5. Read John 3:28–30. How does John demonstrate humility, and why is this critical for a man like him who might’ve been tempted to think more highly of himself than he ought?
6. Read John 3:31–35. How is the glory of Christ on display in these passages? Why are the Trinitarian references in vv34–35 significant?
7. Read John 3:36. What must be our response to the preeminence of Christ and how does this fit with John’s ongoing Gospel refrain?
8. In what ways can you participate in the spiritual life of others as a leader or a follower and yet always keep the main thing the main thing? Why is the local church critical in that process? Ask God to help you be like John the Baptist and make much of Jesus today.