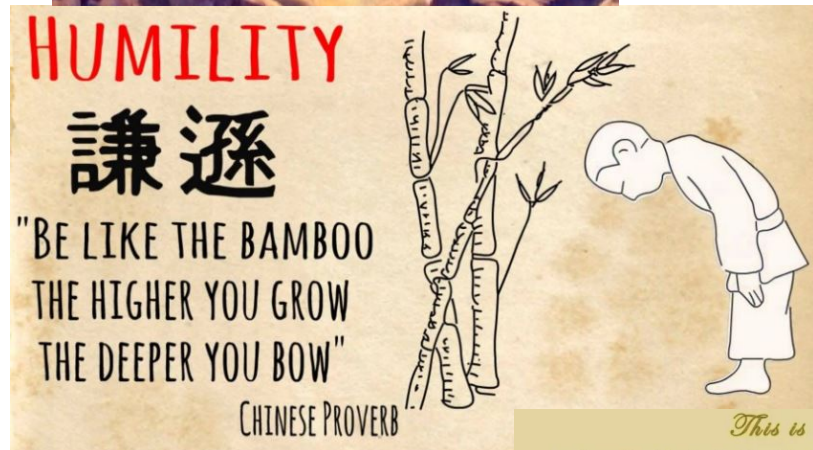


# John 3 v22-36 The bridegroom & eternal life

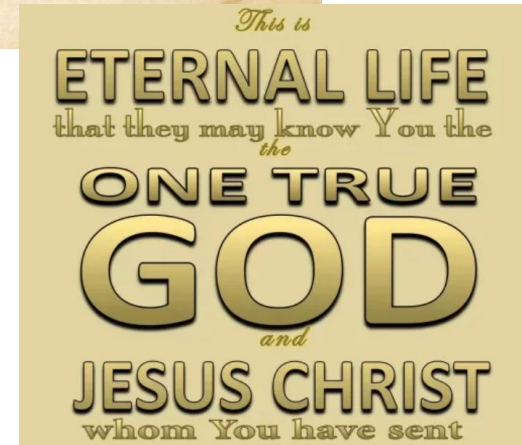
How big is your God?



How humble are you?



What do you know about life?



What story are you living in?

## John 3 v22-26

Jesus & disciples in Judean countryside spending time

Jesus baptized (in fact disciples on behalf of Jesus 4 v1)

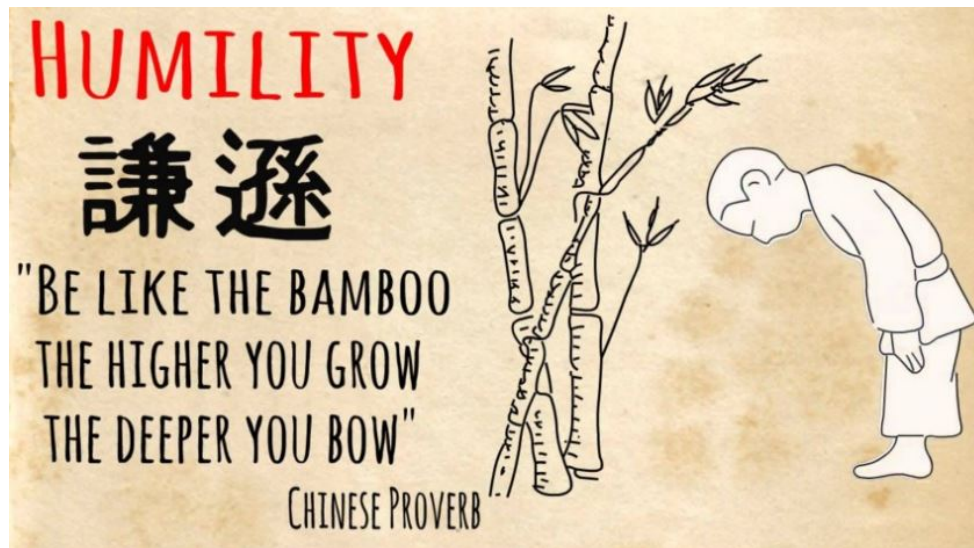
& John baptized (at Aenon) plenty of water & people coming.

An argument between some of John's disciples & a Jew about ceremonial washing.

Disciples to John: “that man . . the one you testified about . . Look, he is baptising & everyone is going to him.”  
v26

They didn't like that Jesus was becoming more popular  
They couldn't even remember his name!!

# Humility



John was the greatest man ever born (Matt 11 v11) – in the wilderness he drew crowds while Jesus grew up in obscurity.

When John's disciples moan about Jesus' popularity his focus is so clear:

**A person can only receive what is given from heaven v27**

“For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it why did you boast as though you did not?” 1 Cor 4 v7

**I've always said I am not the Christ, just the messenger v28**

John hadn't shifted his outlook but some of his disciples had (v26)

## The bride belongs to the bridegroom v29a

John unaware of NT teaching on church as bride of Christ - but from OT would know:

“as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride so will God rejoice over you,”  
Is 62 v5

## Just the friend who attends the bridegroom v29b

When the bridegroom  
arrives – what joy!



## He must become greater, I must become less. v30

The best of ministers are at best like a star in the night sky

When the sun rises they fade away

“ . . Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because ‘God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble.’ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.” 1 Pet 5 v5-6

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interest of others” Phil 2 v3

“For God, who said, ‘let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God & not from us.” 2 Cor 4 v6-7

“whoever finds their life will lose it, & whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.” Matt 10 v39

Are you humble?

Do you value others above yourself?

Do you enjoy seeing all the glory go to God?

Or perhaps just want a bit of glory & recognition yourself?

Old youth team motto “It’s hard to be humble when you are as great as we are!”

Have you taken the step of giving up your life (giving all of it) to Jesus & by so doing you have found your life?

Beware of mixed motives:

offering an act of service to God is reward enough

if others say you’ve done well be thankful God is honoured

don’t do things looking for praise from others

“Make it count, leave a mark, build a name for yourself  
Dream your dreams, chase your heart, above all else  
Make a name the world remembers

But all an empty world can sell is empty dreams  
. . . but Jesus is the only name to remember

And I, I don't want to leave a legacy  
I don't care if they remember me  
Only Jesus  
And I, I've only got one life to live  
I'll let every second point to Him  
Only Jesus”

Casting Crowns “Only Jesus”

# The exalted bridegroom (v31-35)

John compares himself to Jesus:

The one who comes from above (from heaven) is above all v31a

*“In the beginning was the word, & the word was with God & the word was God. Through him all things were made . . . In him was life & that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines . . . John 1 v1-5*

He testifies to what he has seen & heard v32a.

Where’s he been?

The one whom God has sent speaks the very words of God v34a

He has the Spirit without limit (v34b)

The Father loves the Son & has placed everything in his hands (v35)



“All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matt 28 v18-19

Yet only a few accept his message v32b

but those who do confirm God is truthful v33

Do you accept his message?

Many of us think we know better than God.

Weighing up what he says or does & seeing if we approve!

We don't get how above all God is!

Read Is 40 v22-26

The exalted bridegroom

Read Matt 17 v2-5

LISTEN TO HIM!



Above all powers above all kings  
Above all nature and all created things  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man  
You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms above all thrones  
Above all wonders the world has ever known  
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth  
There's no way to measure what You're worth

Part of a song by Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche

## Eternal life (v36)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, v36

What do you know about life?

What does Jesus know about life?

He never had a beginning & he will never have an end.

Impressive!

But what about the quality of that life?

*In him was life & that life was the light of all mankind – John 1*

God in three persons – Father, Son & Holy Spirit

How do they relate?

*This is my son whom I love, with him I am well pleased – Matt 17*

Observe parts of John 17:

Jesus looked toward heaven: “Father the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ who you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do . . .” v1b-5

Read v6-10

“As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world . . .”  
v18

Then re believers:

“I have given them the glory you gave me that they may be one as we are one . . . Then the world will know that you sent me & have loved them even as you have loved me.” v22-23

Then the Holy Spirit is a helper:

Who descended on Jesus in bodily form as a dove – Luke 3 v22

Sent (in Jesus' name) to believers to 'teach all things' & help them remember what Jesus said – John 14 v26

Poured out at Pentecost – Acts 2 empowering & energising believers

Jesus loves to do the Father's bidding

Jesus loves to see the Father honoured

The father loves to glorify the Son

The Spirit loves to help believers to glorify God

It's like an intimate dance

And we are invited to join in the dance!

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, v36a

For believers this is not just life without end

It is a beautiful life!

To be deeply loved by God!

Our deepest joy to glorify God & value/honour others first!

Others deepest joy to do the same & value/honour us first!

Sent into the world so that others may see God's beauty in us & be drawn to Him!

But whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them." v36b

Summary:

Humility is a key principle of ministry

He must become greater, I must become less.

The exalted bridegroom.

The one who is above all

Who speaks the very words of God. Listen to him!

Who loves believers deeply & shares his glory with us.

Believers are given eternal life

An eternal 'beautiful life'

Believe in the Son & join the dance!

"Life! Life! Eternal Life!"