

ARTISTS UNITED INTERNATIONAL



He Must Increase But I Must Decrease

(April 10, 2013)

John the Baptist said these words, "He must increase but I must decrease," after his disciples had reported back to him regarding the ministry of, his relative, Jesus. (John 3:30)

John had become an important and influential minister. There is no doubt the disciples were proud of their teacher. Now, here comes Jesus and is taking away some of John's following, and John's disciples were worried about this--which would be a most human reaction.

However, John knew what God had called him to do, and did not shrink back from having to take the backseat to the ministry of Jesus, "**The Lamb of God.**"

Jesus said in Matthew 10:38-39, "***He that taketh not his cross (self-denial) and followeth after me is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life (lives for self) shall lose it, and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it (God's Zoe life).***"

So, Christianity is the religion of self-denial, not self-glorification, as some may think!

The wonderful thing is, as we yield our lives to God's will and purpose for us, here and now, **He gives us richly all things to enjoy! Hallelujah!**

As we read about Moses, Joseph, and David in the old testament, just to mention a few, it is clear that these ministers and all other ministers that **Adonai** was able to use in some major way, had to go through the process of learning to depend on God for everything, and to deny their selfish wills and desires.

Moses was prepared by God in the land of Midian for forty years before he was able to overcome his temper and was ready to lead Israel out of Egypt. Joseph had to go through a series of trials and tribulations before he was ready to rule on God's behalf in Egypt and save nations from starvation. David was prepared as he was protecting his father's sheep, so he could later slay the giant Goliath. He also had to show that he could restrain himself from touching "God's anointed" Saul, when he had a chance to kill him, before David could become the king of Israel.

So, we see here that the greater the task or calling from God, the longer the time of preparation.

The Lord gave me a word about humility when I was in South America ministering in a miracle crusade. He said: "***La profundidad de tu humildad, va a determinar la altura de tu éxito***", in English "**The depth of your humility will determine the height of your success.**"

I have often thought of this as I have seen thousands of people receive their salvation and healing in the miracle crusades that the Lord has allowed us to conduct through the years all over Latin American, and all I can say is: **To God be all the Glory!**

The definition of Bible humility becomes even clearer as we look at the opposite of humility, ***pride or self-reliance. Humility is total and utter God-reliance.***

I believe that we could say that humility is to give all the credit and all the Glory to the Lord. We could also say that humility is yielding to the Word and the Spirit in all areas in our lives.

Jesus was the most humble of all man that ever walked the earth and the only person that ever obeyed the Father in everything said:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do, for these also doeth the Son likewise." (John 5:19)

Let us follow the example of Jesus and be totally and utterly dependent on God's help in every area of our lives, and to Him be all the Glory and all the Praise forever and ever.

Amen!

-Roger Wågsjö