

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of December 6, 2015

This Week's Focus: Only by God's grace are we able to see the glory of Jesus in his wrath-absorbing sacrifice, which dispels pride and produces humility and joy in our hearts.

This Week's Text: John 3:22-36

"Humility is not the product of direct cultivation, rather it is a by-product. The more I try to be humble, the less shall I attain unto humility. But if I am truly occupied with the One who was 'meek and lowly in heart,' if I am constantly beholding His glory in the mirror of God's Word, then shall I be 'changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.'" **Arthur W. Pink**

"God's wrath is not some impersonal principle of retribution, but the personal response of a holy God who comes to his own world, sadly fallen into rebellion, and finds few who want anything to do with him." **D. A. Carson**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- What are Jesus and his disciples doing at the beginning of this passage? What is significant about the fact that Jesus and his disciples *remained* in the Judean countryside? How can you intentionally plan and schedule unhurried time with Jesus?
- What do John the Baptist's disciples say to him in verse 26? How did the discussion/dispute about purification lead to the statement they made to John? What does the statement reveal about their hearts?
- What does John teach his disciples in verse 27 about the nature of God? How does this relate to Jesus' earlier conversation with Nicodemus? Reference verse 8.
- How does John confront his disciples' pride with his response? In John's words, what was the purpose of his ministry? Reference verses 29-30. Likewise, what is the purpose of our lives and ministry?

- Why was John able to say, "This joy of mine is now complete"? How is humility produced in our hearts? How does humility play a role in our joy and gospel-centered service?
- What does John mean about receiving God's testimony? Reference verses 32-33. How was Jesus uniquely given the Holy Spirit without measure? How does this relate to the authenticity and authority of Jesus' testimony about God and himself?
- How can a loving God display wrath/anger toward humans created in his image? How are love and wrath inextricably connected? Discuss how God must display wrath toward sin or he would be unloving.
- How is anyone made free from the just, rightful, holy wrath of God?
- How does this passage equip you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?