

- I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. RECEIVING AND APPLYING GOD'S WORD:

A. John the Baptist was a humble yet bold servant of God. In John 1 and 3 it is clear that he had practiced hearing from God (Jn. 1:33), and now was content to wait and listen to Jesus (Jn. 3:29). As the Baptist grew in his relationship with Jesus, he became aware of areas of his life that he needed to submit to His Lordship. His motto "He must increase, I must decrease" is a call for us as well. "I must decrease" implies a point where John the Baptist surrendered his thoughts and ways to God's thoughts and ways.

1. What position did John the Baptist surrender in John 3:22-30, and what new position did he understand that he had with Jesus?

2. What is God asking you to surrender to Him? (For example, your image, reputation, influence, position, offense, jealousy, envy, anger, disappointment, expectations, agenda, schedule, fear, marriage, children, friends, sadness, tears, negative feelings about self, depression, addictions, words, etc.)

3. What will God give you in return? Ask Him. When you hear him, test the word by making sure it lines up with Scripture, bears witness with your spirit, and is confirmed by a Christian companion.

B. We are all driven in one of three ways: by what people think about us, by what we think about ourselves, or by what God thinks about us.

1. Ask God to remind you of a time you were motivated by what you thought people were thinking or would think. Write it down.

2. When were you motivated by your own thoughts or standards for yourself?

3. When were you encouraged and motivated by what God thinks of you?

C. When Jesus called His disciples He said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." In addition to calling each of us to be a witness that draws others to Himself, how would Jesus finish that sentence for you? Follow me and I will make you _____.

D. Spend time beholding Jesus this week in your quiet meeting place with Him. Here are some suggestions to build intimacy with Him.

- Buy a journal or legal pad and record your times with Him. This is an important meeting!
- Ask Him to open the eyes of your heart (Eph. 1:18) and to open your ears that you may hear His voice (John 10:27).
- Enter His presence with praise and thanksgiving (Ps. 100:4). Ask Him to put a song on your heart for you to listen to with Him. Let the song wash over you. Pray back the lyrics to Him. Notice which phrases jump out at you. Ponder them in your heart today. You may want to write them in your journal.
- Let your thoughts and concerns come to mind. Imagine yourself giving each one to Jesus for His safe keeping (1 Peter 5:7). Ask Him if He wants to speak on any of these today. Let Him pray through you His words of surrender, assurance and peace. Ask Him for any other guidance or assurance from His word about this issue. Go to the passage that comes to mind. Write down His word to you. Believe that He is in charge of your other issues and will let you know what you need to do or believe about each.
- If you do not sense Him speaking on your specific issues, believe that He does want to feed you from His word. Go to the passage He puts on your mind. Read until His word speaks to you. Write down what He says. Thank Him for that word. Pray that He will "make that word flesh" in you today.
- Repeat as often as you can this week. See if there is a pattern about what the Father is saying to you. Thank Him for your hearing heart.