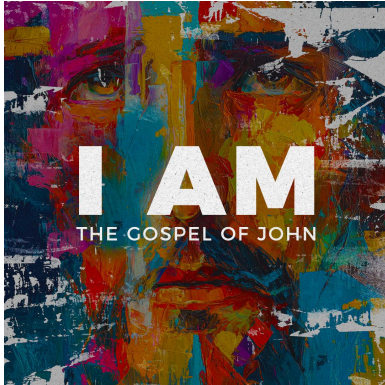


Title: Jesus Changes Everything

Series: I Am

Speaker: Joshua Parrish

Date: June 14, 2026



Introduction

John 3 ends with a scene that could easily be overlooked: two groups of disciples, two men baptizing, and a question about who's drawing the bigger crowd. But underneath that ordinary friction lies something extraordinary — Jesus hasn't come to continue what came before. He's come to transform it.

Key Texts: John 3:22–36; Matthew 3:13–17; John 1:29–33

Icebreaker

Think of something you once understood in a limited way that later turned out to be far bigger or richer than you first realized. What opened your eyes to it?

Discussion Questions

1. **Read John 3:22–26 together.** John's disciples are bothered that everyone is going to Jesus. What do you think is really driving their concern? How do we recognize that same instinct in ourselves?
2. Joshua walked through the history of baptism, from the Essenes to John to Jesus, to show that Jesus didn't simply continue John's practice but transformed it. What does it mean to you that Jesus changed what baptism was? Does that change how you think about your own baptism?
3. The sermon traced a thread across John 1–3: birthrights, water, birth, and belief, all changed into something greater by Jesus. What's the thread you see running through those transformations? What might they be saying collectively about who Jesus is?

4. **Read John 3:27–30 together.** John's response to his disciples is striking. He doesn't defend his turf; he rejoices to become less. What makes that kind of posture so rare, and what might it actually cost someone to live that way?

5. Joshua described a culture of ambition where more is always better: more followers, more wealth, more security. Where do you feel that pull most strongly in your own life? What does "He must become greater; I must become less" look like as a lived reality rather than a slogan?

6. The sermon closed by placing Nicodemus and the woman at the well side by side: one with every religious credential, one with none. Where do you find yourself in that picture, and what does it stir in you?

Key Takeaways

- Jesus doesn't simply continue what came before. His presence transforms and elevates it.
 - Ordering our lives around "He must become greater" runs directly against the grain of a culture built on accumulation and ambition.
 - The invitation in this passage belongs to everyone, the credentialed and the outcast alike.
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Silence and Solitude

Find a quiet moment this week and sit with John 3:30: "He must become greater; I must become less."

Don't rush to analyze it. Let it sit with you. Where does it feel like freedom, and where does it feel like loss? Ask God to show you one thing, one habit, one pursuit, one identity you're gripping that you might be invited to hold more loosely. You don't have to have an answer. Simply make space for the question.