

**"HE MUST INCREASE,  
BUT I MUST DECREASE"**

**Introduction**

1. The speaker is John the Baptist
2. Jealousy has no place among preachers
3. The end in view is: Christ and His Bride

**1. A SURVEY OF THE LIFE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

- 1) John was the subject of O. T. prophecy
- 2) John had a remarkable birth
- 3) John had a powerful ministry
- 4) John had a very high Commendation from Christ
- 5) John was faithful and suffered for it  
**APPLICATION:** Learn from John what God approves

**2. JOHN WELL UNDERSTOOD HIS PLACE IN THE PURPOSES OF GOD**

- 1) **TEXT:** As Christ rose, so John must fall.  
**DOCTRINE:** We must understand our place and be content to accept it.
- 2) The apparent perplexity of John in prison
- 3) The different ministries of John and Christ – both rejected by men.
- 4) **Lessons:**
  - (i) Honour God for His wisdom
  - (ii) Do not compare ministers

**3. JOHN'S SIGHT OF HIS "DECREASE" FULFILLED**

- 1) It consisted especially of these events:
  - (i) his imprisonment
  - (ii) his death
- 2) John's death haunted Herod later – his conscience suffered for it.
- 3) John and Christ were closely connected:
  - (i) by blood relationship
  - (ii) by their ministries
  - (iii) by the manner of their deaths
- 4) **Lessons:**
  - (i) one evidence of a servant of Christ is to be badly treated  
**APPLICATION:** Do not be surprised if it is to be your experience
  - (ii) we must be grateful for the service God is pleased to give us: John's differed from Christ's.

**CONCLUSION**

It is in order to win a Bride for Christ that John and Christ did what they did!

**PSALM**

**71: 14 – 19**

**82: 1 – 8**

**116: 9 – 16**