

WHAT IS A SUCCESSFUL MISSION?

John 3:26-36

By Raymond White

From man's point of view, the mission of John the Baptist was a failure. He lost all of his followers and ended up dead. But from God's point of view, John's mission was a resounding success. Why? Because the success of a missionary's mission is measured not by how many people follow the missionary but by how many people follow Christ. John knew that.

John's disciples didn't agree with that, however, not at first. And when the crowd began to leave John and turn to Jesus, John's disciples came to him and complained.

John 3:26 ...*behold...all men come to him.*

They were jealous for John's sake. "He's taking all your followers, John, what are you going to do about it?" Here's John's response.

John 3:27 ...*A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. :28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. :29 ,,the friend of the bridegroom...rejoiceth greatly because of the bride groom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. :30 He must increase but I must decrease.*

In other words, if people are leaving me and going to him, that's fine with me because that's the way God wants it. Every missionary knows and declares that it's not about himself, it's about Christ. The missionary is simply a forerunner, a herald. What makes the missionary glad is to know that people have come to Christ, regardless of what happens to the missionary.

Here is John's testimony of Jesus.

John 3:31 <i>He...cometh from above...</i>	Jesus is from God.
John 3:32 <i>,,what he hath seen and heard...</i>	Jesus has seen and heard the real truth.
John 3:33 <i>He hath received his testimony...</i>	What Jesus says is true.
John 3:34 <i>...not the Spirit by measure...</i>	Jesus has all power that God has.
John 3:35 <i>...hath given all things...</i>	Jesus has all things that God has.
John 3:36 <i>...hath everlasting life...</i>	Jesus has all life that God has.

This is a powerful testimony that John gives of Jesus. No wonder John points to Jesus and says, "follow him, not me."

And people did. John's mission was a total success. May yours be as well.