

He Must Increase



#greater

John 3:25-30

If you have your bibles, you can go to John chapter 3. We looked at it a little bit last week and we are going to look at it again this week. On Thursday, I got a text from my brother-in-law, and it was just a picture. My response was, "Who is that guy?" Of course, probably most of you know that is Tiger Woods. Immediately, without even really remembering my brother-in-law was going to the PGA Championship, I now know that he's there. This was not just a picture sent to me, this was a picture sent to the whole Stout family text. There was this group text that all of the family gets. He feels the need on a Thursday morning while I'm in the office working; he sends a picture of Tiger Woods to all of the group. Now, I just want to kind of think about why Logan would do this. I mean, Logan doesn't know Tiger Woods personally. It would be kind of strange if he just went and took a picture of some random person and then texted it to all of our group. Like we would all think that was a little strange, but nobody thought this was strange. Like everybody on the group text started texting back, "Can't believe you're that close. What's it like? How is his swing? How is he hitting?" Like the whole text just starts blowing up and you can tell Logan is not the only one who took Tiger Woods' picture, but you can actually see, even like in the little bottom corner, somebody has just taken his picture and they're about to put it on their Instagram. Now why would somebody take a picture of a guy named Tiger Woods and put it on their Instagram? They don't know him; why would they do that? Well, there's a reason right, because in the golf world, Tiger Woods is someone who is great. So if you're a golf fan and you go to a golf match, when you see

him, it's like oh, I'm going to take a picture because he is one of the greatest golfers. So that's something that we do; we take pictures and we share it. But it's not only I didn't get that picture only, my cousin also was going to the PGA tour sent me this picture of a box of donuts. So my cousin, Michael, sends me this picture and says, "Hot light was on." Now, why would my cousin send me a picture of a box of donuts? That just sounds kind of strange. Well, if you know Krispy Kreme Donuts, you know why he sent that picture, because for one he has traveled with me before. Anytime we've went places and been in cities with a Krispy Kreme Donut, when that hot sign is on it doesn't matter if you've just ate, it doesn't matter if you're hungry, it doesn't matter what time it is, your car stops and turns in. it's just like a magnet because there's something about that little box that's great. I mean you open it up; it's like manna from Heaven. It melts in your mouth, like it is just great. So here, my cousin goes and he doesn't just get a box of donuts, he has his wife take a picture so he can send it to me. So I just want to ask the question, why in the world do we do that? Why do we take pictures of famous people and share them? Why do we take pictures of boxes of donuts and share them? Here's the reason I think we do that. It is because we make great what we treasure. We make great what we treasure. See, when we value something, when we like something, when we treasure something, there's a reaction. We actually make that thing great, or that person great. We draw attention to it. So here, Logan, he's at a golf match at the PGA Championship and he sees something he thinks is great, so he treasures, there's value, takes a picture, and by doing so, he's actually making that person great to those around him. We do this all the time in life. We are creatures that treasure things, and by treasuring things, we make them great. Like your friends probably know the things that you treasure, the things that you love, the things that wake you up in the morning, the things you spend your free time on, the teams that you cheer for. We make those things great. We can do those in all sorts of different ways. That's the reason we wear t-shirts or jerseys of our favorite team. Like some of you go on vacation, you've got like a Murray State t-shirt on and somebody sees it, "Oh, Murray State, oh yeah, Murray State University..." They start talking about basketball or football, talking about the best season, the best players, because what's happening is by wearing this shirt, you're saying I cherish

this team, I treasure this university. By wearing it, you're making it great to those around you, to those who are seeing that. We do this all the time. the things we talk about at work that are not just work related, those are those things we treasure, those things that we love, we live for and we spend our time on, and we spend our money on them. What it does is those things we love and value, those things we treasure, what happens is that we actually make those things great. So that's why we take pictures and share them. That's why we tell people about the things that really matter most to us because we find value in them. As we find value in them, we actually make them great.

What we're going to see this morning is this reality that we make Jesus greater by treasuring Him most. It's kind of the big idea. That's the whole sermon in a nutshell. We make Jesus greater by treasuring Him most. Most means above all. Above everything else, Jesus is our treasure, the one whom we love the most, talk about the most, celebrate the most, and spend our time on the most. Like we are most passionate about Jesus, and when that's true, we make Him greater. That's the whole sermon series. We're talking about greater. If you weren't here last week, we've been looking at the life of John the Baptist. What happens is in his life he wanted to become less so that Jesus could become greater. That's what we're trying to talk about, making Jesus greater in our lives. So when I say make Jesus greater, I don't mean that we actually add value to Jesus, like we actually make Him greater. He's already the greatest. You can't add anything to Jesus, you can't add any weight to His scales; He is already the greatest. So what I mean by we make Jesus greater by treasuring Him most, I mean we act like a telescope. Do you know the difference between a telescope and a microscope? A microscope is an object that you look at something that is really small and you try to make it bigger so you can see it. So that's what a microscope is, you're looking at something that's small and you're trying to make it big. That's not what we do with Jesus. Jesus is not small who we try to make big with our lives. Instead, what we are is we're telescopes. What does a telescope do? It takes something that is really, really big, but is also out of maybe plain sight. What we do is take a telescope and say hey, there's a star up there. I know it looks like a little just flash, but if you look through this telescope and just look at it, what's

going to happen is you're going to marvel at how big and how great this star is. So what telescopes do is for people who are just walking, minding their own business, in a perfect night sky, they're not looking up, and a telescope says hey, there's something great up there, how about you look at it, then we look at it and see its greatness. That's what we are meant to do as believers. We are meant to be telescopes that when people see us and they see our lives, they see what we treasure and value, we're like looking into a telescope, and as they see us, they see the One who we find greatest. That is Jesus. They see Him to be valuable. They're just ignoring Him, they're living their own thing, doing their own lives, and then we come in and we show Jesus to be who He really is, and that's great, that's greater. That's exactly what John the Baptist did with his life, and we're going to read back over what we read. Last week we read these verses with this objective, that we're going to decrease. We talked about being a trader. Decreasing means trading your life for the life of Jesus. Now we're going to look at these verses with this lens. We're going to flip the coin. So the tail side of the coin was you need to decrease; now we're going to flip the coin over and we're going to look at these verses and say ok, as I decrease, how can Jesus increase? I don't just want to decrease; I want Jesus to increase in my life. So if you have bibles, we're going to read back in John chapter 3 beginning in verse 27.

Scripture

"John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease."

(Prayer)

Father God, I pray that you would help us to truly live that out, that we would decrease so that You, God, would truly increase in our lives. We pray this in Jesus good name, amen.

Let's just walk back through John's life just really quickly. John, big ministry, everybody is going to him, all of a sudden, Jesus shows up, and he says, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Like here's Jesus, behold, there He is, look at Him, everybody go to Him, and everybody does; they all go to Jesus. Then what happens is John's followers come to him and they say John, everybody is leaving you. You're no longer having influence, and you're no longer famous, you're actually getting smaller, and well there's a problem. John says no, this is exactly what I wanted to happen because here's the reality that all that I have I've been giving it from Heaven. Like all of my gifts, all of my talents, all of my influence, it's a gift from Heaven. Here's what John believed, that his gifts were from Heaven to be used for Heaven. Like that was his big idea that all of his influence and talents and time; it was from Heaven to be used for Heaven. That's how John could connect his life with the greater life of Jesus. He's been given stuff for the sake of Jesus, so when everybody is going to Jesus, he says great, I'm not the Messiah, I'm not the one people need; Jesus is the Messiah. Then he says you know what my life is now, I get to rejoice. I get to rejoice because I'm seeing the groom who is Jesus, and I'm seeing the bride who is lost humanity, I'm getting to see those two come together and there's a saving relationship that's taking place. I'm getting to see that so I'm the friend who's rejoicing, who's clapping, and who's celebrating. Then he says my joy is complete, like I'm happy. I'm ecstatic. My joy, my satisfaction, my life is made because this is happening. I'm getting smaller and Jesus is getting bigger. I must decrease; He must increase. That's what I want with my life. That was John. He was happy to be a telescope. People look through him and ultimately see the glory of God. That's what I hope that you desire this morning, that you desire to live a life that has you decreasing and Jesus increasing, that Jesus would

be your treasure and that by treasuring him, you would make Him greater, that by loving Him and pursuing Him, you would make Him greater to those around you.

I want to talk about two problems that sort of stand in the way from us treasuring Jesus and truly making Him great to those around us. Problem one is often we see Jesus as a ticket rather than treasure. Problem one, seeing Jesus as a ticket, not treasure. To kind of walk through this thought, Piper shared this illustration one time and I love it. I've shared this with you guys before, but I think it hits so in exactly in what we're trying to convey with Jesus being treasured. So let's think about this for a moment. When you think about a ticket, right, now Jesus talked about He says I'm the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me, so there is a real reality that Jesus is the way to Heaven. Ok, He's the way we get to the Father, but some take that to be well He's just a ticket. He's just a means to an end. We come to Jesus, we realize we're sinners; we're separated from God, that's bad. We're going to go to Hell one day; that's bad. Then we hear the good news. Jesus lived the life we couldn't, died the death we deserved, and if we'll believe in Him, we'll be forgiven and go to Heaven and we see Jesus as a ticket. Ok, He's Lord and Savior, meaning, one day He's going to get me into Heaven, so we come to Jesus, we believe in Him, and we accept Him like a ticket. He's going to get us somewhere when we die, but what do we do in the meantime? I mean, how useful is this ticket to us before we need it to actually get into the place we really want to go? So the illustration goes like this. Imagine you go to the movie theatre. Most of us have done this before. You go to the movie theatre, you go to the booth, and you say hey, I want to go to this movie, and you give them your card. They give you a ticket in exchange. Then you have this ticket, and you go in line and get so popcorn and coke, and you're excited, you get the family, and then you go to the little turnstile and there's a person there who takes your ticket. You give them the ticket, and they take it, usually rip it in half, and give you back the part that they just ripped. So they give it back to you, and you take it and you have half of a ticket and you begin to walk into the show. What do you do with the ticket after they give it back to you? I mean, probably throw it away, right, unless it's like some famous movie that you

want to keep it for, but you will probably just throw it away. You might put it back in your pocket, but you don't need it. The ticket is useless. The only point of the ticket was to get you into the movie. The movie is what you wanted. The movie is your motivation. That's the whole reason you got the ticket. For some of us, that's how we view Jesus. What we want is Heaven when we die. What we want is forgiveness of sins, and Jesus is just the ticket that gets us those things. So we come and we believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior, and we sort of obey Him because we think we should. We come to church because we think we should, but really, He's in our back pocket because the reason we've got Jesus is because one day we're going to die and we know we're going to need Him when we meet God. What do we do in the meantime? I mean, what do you do with the ticket? It's kind of useless. The ticket's only good for when you need the show. Here's what the illustration brings out; Jesus is not just the ticket that gets us into the show. Jesus is the ticket, and He is also the show. You come to Jesus to get a relationship with the triune God. You come to Him to get Him. He's not some Savior that you just come to because you know you need Him at some time in the future. You come to Him because you find Him more valuable than everything else in your life, and you see Him as the great treasure that He is. You come through Him to get Him, and then He changes your entire life. So it's not just one day I'm going to spend eternity in Heaven somewhere; it's right now I get to live a vibrant life with Jesus. He's my treasure, I love Him, and He changes me. That's what it looks like to make Jesus greater, to find Him as your treasure, not just a ticket, but as treasure. See, it's real easy to intellectually believe He is Lord and Savior. Ok, I've checked that off; I'm good. But you can't just intellectually believe He's your treasure, because if He is your treasure, He will really change your life because you'll value Him, you'll think about Him, you'll pursue Him. He's worthy to you. He's worth more to you. When He's your treasure, He becomes everything to you. Here's what I think Jesus would tell us, if He is not your treasure, then He's not your Lord and Savior. It's only Him being treasure that He's your Lord and Savior. If He is your true Lord and your true Savior, He is also your treasure. You can't have one without the other. You can have just Jesus to get you into Heaven if you don't realize He is Heaven. He is the whole point of the gospel. You're getting a relationship with the triune God. So here's what we see. Jesus

actually explains it to us in my favorite verse in all of Scripture. I've shared it with your guys before, but it fits with the greater theme. Matthew 13:44, Jesus says, "The kingdom of Heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." So here's Jesus, He brings up this kingdom of Heaven, you could also say kingdom of God.

Now what is that? It's a big concept all throughout Scripture. In fact, it's a thing Jesus talked about the most when He rose from the dead. He spent forty days talking about the kingdom of God, so it's this really big deal. So what is the kingdom of God? The kingdom of Heaven. It's how life was meant to live. Like in the beginning, God creator King, created the world, created us, to live under His good rule and reign as His perfect people in a perfect place. That's the glorious kingdom of God. We're living in relationship with God under His rule and reign in a perfect place as His perfect people. The problem is we didn't cherish that, we didn't love that. Instead, we traded God's kingdom for our own, and we decided we're going to rule our own lives. We lived in our own kingdom, and every one of us are born living in our own kingdom, doing our own thing, doing our own live for our own joy and our own pleasure. We're the boss. We're the Lord. But here's what Jesus did when He came to the earth, He said the time is fulfilled. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel. He says I'm the king who is bringing the kingdom of God to the planet. So there is a new way you can now live. When you come to Me as Lord and Savior, you're actually brought into My kingdom where now you are My perfect people again, and you're in My place, and guess what? You're going to live under My rule and reign as the church.

So He is bringing us in to this kingdom, so the question is what does it look like when somebody finds the kingdom? What does it look like when somebody finds Jesus as Lord, Savior, treasure, and king? What does it practically look like? He tells us a story. He said here's what the kingdom of Heaven is like. It's like a man who finds treasure. So I just want to go in the story a little bit because the whole point of a parable is for us to be brought into a story, a narrative, that has emotion that we feel and we can taste it a little bit. So here's the story Jesus tells. There's this man, he's walking through a field, and he stumbles upon a hidden treasure. Now

you're thinking like, ok now what's the reality of this happening? Like, I've never found lost treasure hidden in a field somewhere. Well, back in Jesus' day, there weren't banks at every street corner. So if you had money, gold, or a lot of expensive things, you might not put them in your house; you might actually dig a hole and bury them on your land so that nobody could come into your house and steal them. So people would bury treasure on their property, but sometimes the owner of the property would die and forget to tell little Johnny where he hid the gold, and it would be lost. So then, that property would get sold, and that property would get sold, and then years later, somebody would buy a piece of property and they would try to dig a fence and would find money, cash, gold, rubies, or jewelry. So this was a common thing that sometimes happened in Jesus' culture. So He's using this story. He says there was this guy and he was walking along this field, maybe he's going along for a hike, maybe he's scouting, I don't know what he's doing, but he's walking down in this field and he bumps into something. He kind of comes back, and you can imagine this guy, he sees this like partial part of a lid, and he begins to scrape it off and it looks like a pirate chest. He's like cool, there's a pirate chest buried! So he begins to dig, he's kind of looking around, and he gets it where he can open it up. When he opens it up, expecting to see nothing, he's blinded by what he sees, gold, silver, jewels, diamonds, not just little trinkets of gold, like bars of gold, like there was some pirate who lost this someway and I just found it. all of a sudden, he realizes this treasure is of great value, like probably can't even put a price tag on it, like as much money as you could ever imagine is in this box. So he looks around and he sees a for sale sign on that little piece of property, and like nobody else is there. He's looking around, so he shuts the lid, he covers it back up, and he looks at the for sale sign. The for sale sign, he does the math, the amount that land cost is about how much he has if he adds up everything that he completely owns. So he has a decision. What's he going to do? In order to buy the field, he has to sell everything he has. So it says in his joy, he goes and sells all that he has. So imagine, you've just found this treasure, you've found a price tag you can actually buy a field that has the treasure in it, so you go home and go through all of your stuff, and you begin selling every bit of it. You list the house on the market, you put all of your clothes on EBay, I mean you're selling everything. You've got great-grandma's diamond earrings;

you're selling them. You've got your wedding ring; you're selling it. Everything, all of your kids trophies, all of their memorabilia, you're selling it all. It's all going. You're going to have to sell everything in order to get what you need. You're selling the car, the camper, the boat, like whatever you have, you're selling every single possession that you have, whether it is something you cherish or something you just bought. You're selling all of it. The only thing you have is like ball shirts and a t-shirt; that's it. Everybody, of course, thinks you're crazy. Your parents are calling in some help for you, because all these things are what you've lived your whole life for. All these things represent your life, but this guys, he's just smiling. He says take it, half price; I'll sell it to you. Do you want to buy it? If you don't want to buy it, just move on because I need to sell every single thing. Then when you sell the very last item, like the watch that your granddad gave you, you sell it; you have nothing. You own literally, you're barefoot, but you have just enough cash to walk over to the owner of the field, and you say I want to buy that field. The owner kind of looks at you like wow, I really overpriced the field. I didn't really think anybody would buy it; it's just a field. You're like I know, but I want the field. You give him the money and he gives you the deed to the field, then all of a sudden, you realize that now you aren't just the owner of the field, but you're the owner of the treasure. When you peel back that treasure, all that stuff that you sold, that had value, it had memories, all of it doesn't even compare to the treasure you just have now in this field, a treasure that far outweighs all of your former life.

Jesus says that's what it's like to find the kingdom. That's what it's like to find Me. When you see Me, when you find that I am the king of a new kingdom, that I'm your creator who died for you, who rose again for you, who you were made for, when you come and find Me, I'm not just something you have to do. I'm not just something you're supposed to do. I'm not just an obligation that you know religiously you should follow My teachings, no, I'm not those things. What I am, I'm treasure that you value more than everything else in your life. When you find Me, you want Me more than everything else and you're willing to give up everything it takes to get Me. That's what I'm like. I'm like treasure. See, one of things that keep us from making Jesus great is we view Him as just as a ticket. He

says yeah, we need to follow His teaching, we need to do what He says, we need to go to church, and it's just all sort of obligation, but really, we love all the other things a lot more. You're not going to make Jesus great by obeying Him because you feel like you have to. No, the way you make Jesus great is you come to Him and you live your life for Him and you worship Him because you've actually found Him to be better than everything else you could ever imagine, like He becomes treasure! Like that man finds him a field, all of a sudden, that is his priority; that's what he loves more than anything else. That's what it looks like to become a Christian that you find Jesus as your ultimate satisfaction. He is your ultimate value, worth more than everything else and every other pursuit in your life. He is number one. He is the priority. Yes, He's Lord and Savior, but He's also treasure. He's the one that you love. He's the one that you have affections for.

The second problem is this; that we turn trinkets into treasures. So the second problem in making Jesus great is we often make trinkets into treasure. So we've just looked at Jesus is the treasure. He's the one who you were made for; your heart was made for. He is ultimate satisfaction, and what we do as people, those who were made for treasure, we settle for trinkets. We settle for things that are not gods that we turn into gods. They can be good things that we make into God things, things like families, careers, money, and stuff. All those things are good in and of themselves if we see them as gifts, but when we pursue them as ultimate treasure, and then what happens is we spend our life on trinkets rather than spending our life on the treasure. We all know what a trinket is, right. I mean, trinket is those things that are kids always want us to get them, like those little Dollar Store things that we know. It's going to be happy for a moment, but it's not going to last. It's sort of like the balloon art people. I love the balloon art guys and girls. I actually have this secret desire to want to become one. I want like the belt with the little balloons, so when I show up at a restaurant, I can be like hey kids, let me make you a monkey. Like I just think that would be awesome! I love that, but as a dad, there is part of me that loves the balloon art people, but there's part of me that does not. Because here's what happens, you stand in line with your kid for thirty minutes to get a little balloon monkey, and they're so pumped

because it looks like a little monkey. It squeaks and it's awesome, and then you weigh and you get up to the little balloon person, they're making the monkey and they give it to your kid, and your kid loves it and they're so excited about it. But you know as a parent what happens next in four seconds. What? It pops! The squeak goes boom, and then the happy, joy, smile turns into a frown and a cry because the little balloon monkey who's supposed to make me happy forever only made me happy for four seconds. That's what trinkets are like, but we as adults get very sophisticated and our trinkets get more sophisticated. If I can just buy that, then I'll be permanently happy. We get it and then four seconds later, it's like well, I've got to wash the thing, and I've got to do something else, so we get the other thing. Maybe it's a promotion; if I can just climb to this point on the ladder, then I'll be forever happy. We get there and it doesn't do it. It's like the balloon art, if we're seeking it as treasure, it can't hold all of our desires. All those things are trinkets. A lot of those are good things, they're gifts, but we have to see them as gifts, not as treasure because only Jesus is forever. Only Jesus can truly satisfy all the longings of our heart. God had to wrestle with His Old Testament people in this idea of seeking trinkets. It's over treasure. Here's what He says in the Old Testament in Jeremiah chapter 2:12-13, "Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water." So God is looking at His Old Testament people, and He says I know you're thirsty. I know you have needs. I know you have desires. You want ultimate things. You want love. You want community. You want something to worship. You want something to satisfy you. I know you have those longings because I made you that way. I made you thirsty, and the point of making you thirsty is so that you would come and drink from the fountain. Guess what? I'm a fountain of living water. I bubble up. I'm a fountain of living water. I just keep pouring out more and more and more. So all those desires that you have, bring them to Me and your thirst will be satisfied. But He says you have actually committed two evils. The first thing is you have forsaken Me, the fountain of living water. All those desires I created, you've said no, God's not enough. I'm not going to be satisfied in God. He says what you did is you turned and you actually hewed out

broken cisterns for yourselves. So what God's people did is they got a shovel and they started digging in the sand. Remember, they're thirsty. All they want is a drink of water, so they said hmm, fountain of living water, pure, always overflowing, that's probably not going to work. I think I need to build my own, so they start digging in the sand, and they dig this cistern. What a cistern does when it rains, it catches water. The problem is you're in a sandy, arid climate, and it was actually a broken cistern, so it had holes in it, so all you got was like wet sand. So the people, they're thirsty, they would wait for it to rain, and when it rained, they would run to their cisterns and they would lap up sandy water hoping to get their thirst quenched. God says that's evil! What are you doing? I'm not mad that you have desires. I'm not mad that you have these deep longings. I'm angry because you're going to the wrong place, and they're not satisfying you. They're not working. I created you to have a relationship with Me. that's what sin is; it is turning from God to something else as a god. We seek that thing to satisfy us, but it never can.

It's like Evie Kate at the beach. This summer, I got to go and do a week long camp for some youth students. Some churches got together and had me be the camp speaker, so at night I would preach, but during the day, we could go to the beach and hang out, so I took the whole family. We love the ocean, we love the beach, and here's Evie Kate. She's got her little bathing suit on and she's so excited about the beach. We get there and Evie Kate loved the beach, but she did not love the ocean, which brings some drama when you're trying to get your kids to enjoy the ocean. So but what Evie Kate wanted, she wanted to swim, but she didn't want the ocean. So we kind of had a problem. I'm like; Evie, there's a great pool. It's like the biggest pool in the world. You can go and swim, and it's awesome. It's like forever; just go enjoy. She was like no I want Evie Kate pool. So what we have to do, me and the boys, is we had to dig her a pool in the sand. It was called the Evie Kate pool. So we taking and we're digging this big, deep, thing of water, but the problem is when you dig your own little pool outside of the ocean, it doesn't work very well because it's sand. So what I would have to get the kids to do is the boys had a mission. They would take their buckets, and they would dip it in the ocean. They would come and they would pour it in Evie Kate's pool, then all of a

sudden, the pool would fill up with water. Then Evie would get really excited and she would go over to it and would put her arms out, and she would just belly flop in it. But about the time she actually belly flopped, all the water would be drained, and she would just belly flop in sand. Then she would get up and her entire bathing suit is just nothing but wet sand, then she would say, "I want to swim in Evie Kate pool." I would say, "Well Evie, here's a really cool pool. If you would just turn around, there is like God's pool, and it's really big. If you just take a few steps out there, you can swim, you won't get sandy, and you can swim as much as you want. It's great, it's an ocean, and it's so amazing!" She would look at me and say, "No, I want Evie Kate's pool." So I would say alright boys, let's do round number two. So we would get more water, pour in it, and by the time the water was all in and she was ready to swim, as soon as she went in, it would be empty, and she would say I want Evie Kate's pool. We literally would do this for hours trying to get Evie Kate to swim, but the reality is there was a pool, an ocean, available to her, but she just in her little mind said no, I have a better idea.

That's a funny, cute story, but in reality, that is some of us. We have a fountain of living water. We're thirsty. We want happiness. We want joy. We want pleasure. We want relationship. We want community. We want all of these things, we desire these things, but what we do is we run to good things and we turn them into God things. We dig in the sand and we make our own little pool, and we say I deeply want love and community, but what I can find, I don't need God because I've got Facebook, so I can just give all my time and energy to Facebook and what everybody's doing, and that's going to work. What happens is the more we do, and without God, it's never going to satisfy. It's just endless scrolling, so we say well, I want to, so we get something new, but it's that doesn't quite do it because we were made to have God who gives us pleasure forevermore. So the problem is we turn to trinkets to give us what only treasure can. Only treasure can satisfy our hearts. Only treasure can make us satisfied, not just today, but forevermore. All the other things are like little balloon art, it's good today, but it pops and it's gone and you've got to get something different, get something else, and do something different; pursue something different. It's always more and more, and what happens is we

turn trinkets into treasures and we treasure trinkets, and then we make trinkets great, and we make ourselves great. It's a reverse of what God had planned. What God had planned is for us to enjoy the trinkets, but not to make them treasure, for us to know treasure is God, treasure is Jesus. I am all in with my relationship with Jesus. He is my treasure, and when we treasure Jesus, we make Him greater. When you treasure Him, love Him, long for Him, and pursue Him, the people around you, you're going to be like a telescope to them, saying if you hang out with me, what you're going to see is the most important thing to me is my relationship with my creator because it's not just I have to; it's because I want to. He is the treasure that I've found that's better than anything else I have. He is the treasure that satisfies. I'm stopping the little Evie Kate pool, and I'm running and jumping in the ocean, and guess what; the ocean is actually better. The ocean is a whole lot bigger. It's a whole lot better. So for you who have the little pools, follow me out to the ocean. See, that's how we make Jesus great. We make Jesus great by treasuring Him the most. That's how John did it. He wasn't about himself; he was about Jesus. He found the treasure, and if you and I are going to make Jesus great, it happens one way, by finding Him as treasure, not just Lord Savior. Yes, as Lord Savior, but Lord Savior and treasure. He's not just a ticket to somewhere else; He is the way into relationship with the triune God. That relationship is the thing that changes your life, and you love Him, and enjoy Him. He's the pursuit and the pleasure of your heart. The more you treasure Him, the more people will see His greatness around you. So if you want to make Jesus great, here's how you do it; you treasure Him most. The more you treasure Him, the more you will decrease and the more He will increase in those around you.