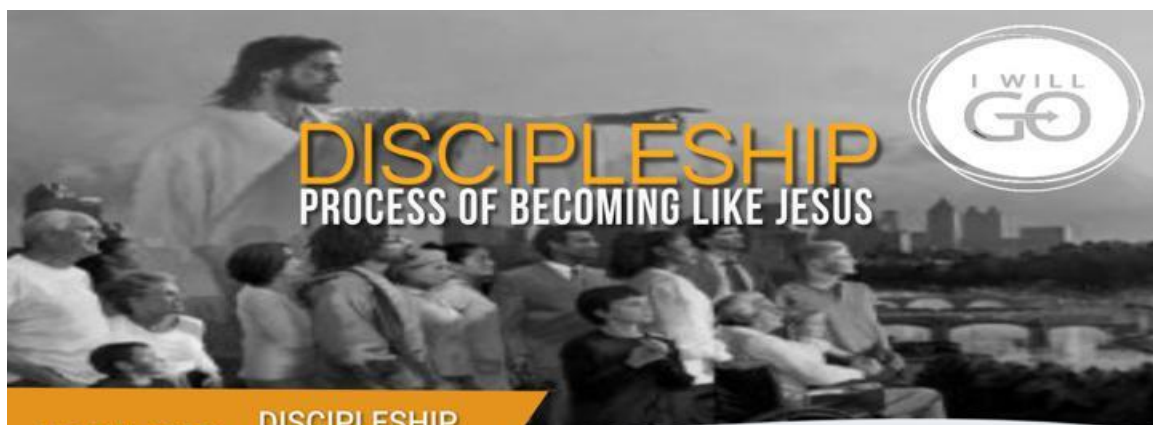




JAN 14, 2023

DISCIPLESHIP
REFLECTIONS

"He must increase, but I must decrease."
(John 3:30, NKJV)

Paradox Of Greatness In Discipleship

John the Baptist was a model disciple of Jesus Christ. He knew well that his purpose in life was to call people to repentance in preparation for the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. As a result, when a group of priests and Levites asked him who he was, he replied, "I am not the Christ" (John 1:20, NIV).

The principle that "He must increase, but I must decrease" was exemplified by John the Baptist. Like John, we must decrease, and Jesus must increase. That's not a popular concept in our self-centered world, but it's only through this process that we come to the fullness of what we were created to be.

As called disciples and followers of the Lord, each of us is a unique creation, with a certain personality, talents, gifts, and so forth. Our uniqueness is tied to the purpose God appointed for us on this earth. Unless we put God first, become more like Jesus Christ, and live out His purpose for our lives, we will miss the unique purpose that God wants to accomplish through us.

As for John the Baptist, our Lord said, "I tell you the truth: Among these born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11, NIV). Greatness in God's eyes comes from decreasing, not increasing.

