

- *Amanda also spoke more informally about her first stint back in Nepal, and we prayed for her*

Something about God

- Jesus surpasses Judaism - 4th successive section where John demonstrates that
 - see Carson, foot of p.208
 - 1. John 2:1-11, Jesus provides new wine that vastly surpasses anything contemporary Judaism could provide
 - 2. John 2:12-25, Jesus displaces the Temple and points forward to the understanding later developed in Hebrews that the Temple is best seen as an **anticipation** of the ultimate place of mediation between God and man - ie, Christ himself
 - 3. John 3:1-21, Jesus points to his death as the ultimate antitype (ie, not the prototype, not the first try at something) of the "snake lifted up" - from which deliverance from judgement came
 - 4. John 3:22-36, and here surpasses John the Baptist (and so also any of the other prophets; John is seen throughout the NT as the greatest of the prophets), and any baptism or purification he may offer or represent
- Layer upon layer of "Jesus is greater", "Jesus is better"
 - I don't know whether you remember when we looked at Hebrews around about this time last year one of the tag lines was "Jesus is Miles Better", picking up on the old catchphrase the Glasgow used to use - not just "Slightly Superior" as Edinburgh might think itself!
 - the same thought runs through this part of John's gospel **Jesus is Miles Better!**
 - Jesus is beyond any person or system we can come up with.

A wee note about speakers

- worth stopping for a second and looking at who we think is speaking as we go through this passage!
 - vs.22-26 are clearly the words of the narrator, the apostle John
 - vs.27-30 are clearly the words of John the Baptist
 - but what about vs.31-36?
 - NIV punctuates it as if they are the words of John the Baptist
 - and to be fair the Greek, which has no punctuation, no paragraph breaks, gives us no clues outside of the words themselves!
 - but I think a more compelling argument can be made for these verses being the apostle John's comment on John the Baptist's insight
- In other words, John the Baptist has seen that Jesus is superior to him - v.30
 - and then John the apostle, writing 50 years later, with all the perspective those years has given him, affirms that judgement in vs.31-36

Something about John

- Follow John's example - pointing to Jesus
- Remember context:
 - these verses seem to pre-date the stuff in the other gospels where John is being carted off to prison, and his ministry is drawing to an end
 - here John the Baptist's ministry is still in full flow, he is popular, he is drawing the crowds
 - he is at that point where it is **hardest** to point away from what God has given him to say and draw attention to someone else
- cf emphasis of the Lost for Words course - eg the suffering module

Something about Us

- By way of application
- Know more of Jesus as John reveals him to be
- Follow John the Baptist's unparalleled example in pointing away from himself and towards Jesus