

John Chapter 8 Third Continued

John 8:45 "And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not."

In the last lesson, Jesus had told them that they were of their father, the devil. Jesus is speaking to the religious people of that day. They were very like our day; because they had a form of godliness, claiming to be following Jesus, but in fact, following the lust of the flesh.

These Hebrews were proud of the fact that they were descendants of Abraham. They were not spiritual descendants of Abraham, because Abraham is the father of those who believe.

Galatians 3:29 "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Jesus is the Truth. To have the truth, we must believe in Him.

John 8:46 "Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?"

Who in all of your scholars, has accused me of sin and can prove that I have done anything contrary to God's teaching, is the question Jesus asked them. They cannot accuse Him of evil, because He does only good. Again, Jesus says, you know I am telling the truth, why do ye not believe me? I believe the reason they didn't believe Him is because He was housed in flesh.

Although the Jews argued that Jesus was guilty of sin, the sense here is that the perfect holiness of Christ was demonstrated, not by the Jews silence at Jesus' question, but by the assurance of His direct consciousness of the purity of His whole life.

Only a perfectly holy One who has the closest and most intimate communion with the Father could speak such words. The Jews could martial no convincing evidence that could convict Him of sin in the heavenly court.

They were just like so many people today, who cannot look beyond the flesh and see the Spirit. This sinless, perfect one they could not comprehend. You see, if Jesus was just flesh, they would have been right; because all flesh has come short of the glory of God. Jesus was and is, God the Son.

God the Son was housed in flesh when He was on the earth, so He could be tempted in the flesh, as we are. His flesh will feel pain on the cross. His Spirit is in total control at all times. The Spirit of God came and dwelled in the flesh of man and overcame the flesh and death.

John 8:47 "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear [them] not, because ye are not of God."

There is only one explanation for this; they really do not know the Father God.

John 8:48 “Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?”

Since the Jews could not attack Jesus’ personal life and conduct (verse 46), they tried an ad hominem attack of personal abuse toward Him. The reference to Jesus as a “Samaritan”, probably centers in the fact that the Samaritans, like Jesus, questioned the Jews’ exclusive right to be called Abraham’s children.

These Hebrew's strong enemy was the Samaritan. This was one of the worst things they could call Jesus in their sight, a Samaritan. Just as an after-thought, they added that He had a devil.

As we said before, anything they did not understand they called a devil. What they forgot is the devil does evil, and Jesus was doing only good.

John 8:49 “Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honor my Father, and ye do dishonor me.”

Jesus has offered them life, and yet they rejected Him. This flat statement that He has not a devil is emphatic. It leaves no room for question. This is the reply a true Christian should give as well. A person who is totally sold out to Jesus is full of His Light, and that Light does away with all darkness. You cannot be filled with Light and darkness at the same time.

A demon can attack a Christian from without but cannot enter into a Christian full of Light. Jesus says one more time that He is of the Father. He is God's representative to man. If we reject Him, we reject God.

John 8:50 “And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.”

Truly Jesus did not come to glorify Himself. He suffered the shame of the cross at Calvary to spare us. Jesus was here to suffer for our sins.

At the end of the age, He will be the Judge of all the earth.

John 8:51 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.”

Verily, verily means that there is no room for doubt. When we partake of Jesus who is Life, we have life, not death. Whether we go the way of the grave, those who are in Christ will have their physical body go into the ground, but their spirit will immediately go to be in Heaven with Christ. “I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.”

Heeding Jesus’ teaching and following Him results in eternal life. Physical death cannot extinguish such life.

John 8:52 "Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death."

Jesus' assertion that anyone who keeps His word will never die prompted the Jews to offer a retort that once again revealed their thinking on strictly a literal and earthly level.

Every person is a spirit who lives in a body. Our body will go back to dust. Our spirit inside a celestial body will go on to be judged of Jesus. Those who follow Jesus will go on to eternal life with Him. These Christians truly shall never taste of death.

John 8:53 "Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?"

This is a sarcastic remark spoken to Jesus. Abraham was created by Jesus. In fact, He was Abraham's God. They are saying to Jesus, who are you trying to tell us that you are, God? Again, I say they did not recognize Him as God the Son.

The question is, who is Jesus?

John 8:54-55 "Jesus answered, If I honor myself, my honor is nothing: it is my Father that honoreth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:" "Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying."

They really have no excuse, because He told them this saying." The Jews were a very proud people. Their pride stemmed from God giving them His law.

You can know the law, however, and not love or know the Law giver. To know the letter of the law, does not give life. The Lawgiver brings Life.

John 8:56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad."

I will not get into this in depth here. Abraham is the father of the believers. He believed in the Savior. Our spiritual father must believe the same way we do. Take another look at Melchizedec whom Abraham paid tithes to and who served communion to Abraham.

Melchizedec, King of peace, had no earthly parents, had no beginning of days or end of life. The only person He appeared to was the father of believers, Abraham. He appeared to Abraham approximately 2,000 years after Adam's birth. Jesus appeared 2,000 years after that as a baby. And our King of kings and Lord of lords will appear in the eastern sky approximately 2,000 years after that. Think on this.

(Hebrews 11:13), indicates that Abraham saw Christ's day ("having seen them afar off"). Abraham particularly saw in the continuing seed of Isaac the beginning of God's fulfilling the covenant that would culminate in Christ.

John 8:57 “Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?”

Their view of Jesus was strictly physical. They had not understood what He had been telling them at all; that He was eternal God the Son.

John 8:58 “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”

Jesus is speaking here of His eternity. He is the First and Last, the Alpha and Omega. Read again (John chapter 1), if you have any doubt.

Here Jesus declared Himself to be Yahweh, i.e., the Lord of the Old Testament. Basic to the expression are such passages as (Exodus 3:14; Deut. 32:39; Isaiah 41:4 and 43:10), where God declared Himself to be the eternally pre-existent God who revealed Himself in the Old Testament to the Jews.

This clear statement of deity caused the Jews to try to stone Him. Abraham had a beginning, Jesus is eternal.

John 8:59 “Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”

The Jews understood Jesus’ claim and followed, which indicates that any man who falsely claims to be God should be stoned.

You see, they could not see Jesus if He did not want them to, even if He were standing in front of them. He walked right in front of them, hidden to their view. If nothing else had convinced them, this should have; because He hid Himself to them while they were beholding Him.

Jesus repeatedly escaped arrest and death because His hour had not yet come. The verse most likely indicates escape by miraculous means.

John Chapter 8 Third Continued

1. In verse 45, why did they not believe Him?
2. Who had Jesus said was their father?
3. Compare what they were doing to nominal Christians now.
4. In Galatians 3:29, who is Abraham father of?

5. What question, in verse 48, did they ask Jesus?
6. Explain what that means.
7. Why does the author believe they did not believe Him?
8. Why was Jesus housed in a fleshly body when He came as our Savior?
9. What was the worst name they could think to call Jesus?
10. What answer did Jesus emphatically give them in verse 49?
11. A person who is totally sold out to Jesus is full of what?
12. Why can that person not have a devil living inside them?
13. What can the devil do to Christians?
14. In verse 51, Jesus says "...If a man keep my saying, he shall never see _____."
15. Who is Life?
16. Who did these Jews say was their father?
17. Jesus said "...If a man keep my saying, he shall never _____ ."
18. Who did they compare Jesus unfavorably with?
19. Who did they say was their God?
20. Jesus said, if they knew God, why didn't they recognize _____?
21. Jesus said, if He said He knew not the Father, He would be what?
22. How many years after Adam's birth, did Melchizedec appear?
23. How many years after Melchizedec's appearance, did the Savior appear?
24. How many years after Jesus, approximately, will it be that our King and Lord appear?
25. How old did they say Jesus was?
26. Jesus said "...Before Abraham was, _____."
27. What did Jesus do, when they started to stone Him?