

- E) Jesus assures (emphatically) that those disciples† who will “keep His word” will never see/taste (experience) death (8:51-52).
- F) The Jews, sensing that Jesus is making claims no man could possibly support, antagonistically compare Him to Abraham and the prophets (8:52-53). The Jews ask Jesus directly, “whom are You making Yourself out to be?”
- G) Jesus insists He is not the one who “making Himself” into anything! It is God who is glorifying Jesus. Further, the reason the Jews do not know God (they are liars for their claim), is because they do not “keep His word” (8:54-55).

4) Deity Revealed!

- A) Jesus finally answers the questions the Jews have been firing at Him regarding “father Abraham,” noting that Abraham “rejoiced to see My day” (Note: NIV renders this “at the thought of seeing My day” -- 8:56).
- B) The idea (from 8:56) is that Abraham rejoiced at the future idea of a Messiah (Genesis 18:18), then saw the reality of the provision on Mount Moriah when God provided a substitutionary sacrifice for Isaac (Genesis 22).
- C) Jesus relates this event to His own provision (“My day”). The Jews are stunned by the claim, and attempt to reconcile it with Christ’s physical age. Jesus then drops the “bomb” of His deity on them, “I AM” (Exodus 3:14). They attempt to kill Jesus, but cannot, because Jesus simply “was hidden” from them (!!). Jesus departs the temple for good (8:57-59).

† John Calvin notes, “therefore in this passage, Christ promises eternal life to His disciples, but demands disciples who will not merely nod their assents like donkeys, or profess with the tongue that they approve His teaching, but who will keep it as a precious treasure” John Calvin, *The Gospel According to Saint John*.

Who’s Your Daddy?

Long Beach Alliance Church • December 26th, 2004 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**“YOU ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, AND YOU WANT TO DO THE DESIRES OF YOUR FATHER. HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, AND DOES NOT STAND IN THE TRUTH BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM. WHENEVER HE SPEAKS A LIE, HE SPEAKS FROM HIS OWN NATURE, FOR HE IS A LIAR AND THE FATHER OF LIES.
~JOHN 8:44 (NASB)**

1) You Are Not Who You Think You Are...

- A) Jesus has exposed the Jews (John 8:30-31) for being slaves to a lifestyle of sin (8:34-36), a contention against which the Jews will vigorously resist based on their “connection” to Abraham (8:33, 39, 52-53).
- B) Jesus recognizes the Jews physical lineage to Abraham, but points out that their lifestyle (you seek to kill Me...) is inconsistent with Abraham, and in fact indicates that they are not of Abraham, but illegitimate (of a different father, 8:38).
- C) Momentarily confused, the Jews reassert their Abrahamic lineage (8:39). Much more directly, Jesus drills home the distinction of their actions and their heritage, directly calling

into question the value of their Abrahamic paternity (8:41).

- D) The Jews 'get it' this time, and fight back with an assertion of their own ("we are not born of fornication"), bringing to light the unusual circumstances of Christ's virgin birth. The Jews insist that they are part of God's chosen people (Israel), that they have "one Father: God" (8:41).
- E) Jesus ignores the reference to fornication (it will be dealt with later), but completely rejects the notion that this group of Jews is of God the Father. Because they do not love Jesus, they cannot be of the Father -- the two cannot possibly be associated/compatible with each other (8:42)!
- F) The Jews must have appeared confused, so Jesus clarifies that it is their inability to hear Him (the Word, John 1:1, 14) that explains the truth of their lineage (8:42). "Jesus is speaking of spiritual incomprehension, not of any failure of intellect" (Morris, *NICNT/John*, Page 411).

2) Children Of The Devil

- A) Jesus reveals the identity of their father -- it is the devil (Satan) himself (8:44)! Jesus gives a brief description of the devil's characteristics, highlighting that the devil, like the Jews who are speaking with Jesus Christ, seek to murder and lie.
- B) Against Satan's nature of lies and murder, Jesus (stunningly) insists that He speaks the truth, cannot be convicted of sin*,

* The perfect holiness of Christ is proved in this passage, not by the silence of the Jews, who might very well have ignored the sins of their interlocutor, but by the assurance with which Jesus lays this question before them. Without the immediate consciousness which Christ had of the perfect purity of His life, and on the supposition that He was only a more holy man than other men, a moral sense so

and is speaking the truth (8:45-46).

- C) Rhetorically, Christ asks the Jews why they will not believe (8:46). He answers His own question by telling the Jews that, despite their own belief about themselves, they cannot hear the words of God because they are not of God (8:47).

3) Demon vs. Deity

- A) The Jews respond that Jesus must be a Samaritan (remember their accusation of illegitimacy from 8:41?), and that Jesus has a demon (is of the devil, instead of them, 8:48).
- B) Jesus doesn't respond to the illegitimacy accusation, probably not viewing being a Samaritan as lowly as the Jews. However, He responds aggressively against the idea that He has a demon (8:49; cf. Mark 3:21-30, where the accusation is connected to a permanent state of unbelief).
- C) Jesus clarifies that despite the fact they have dishonored Him with an accusation of being in league with Satan, He is not seeking His own glory in this life (8:49-50).
- D) Jesus notes that He doesn't need to seek His own glory (despite deserving it) because God will seek it out and judge (8:50). Jesus wants the substance of His life to glorify God, nothing more, nothing less.

delicate as that which such a state would imply, would not have suffered the least stain to pass unnoticed, either in His life, or in His heart; and what hypocrisy would there not have been in this case in addressing to others a question with the aim of causing them to give it a different answer from that which, in His inmost heart, He gave Himself!" (F.L. Godet, *Commentary on the Gospel of John*).

continued

Small Group Bible Study Questions

- A) Have you (or someone you know) ever been in a place (like a job, church, organization...) for a very long time and felt that because of your familiarity you could take certain "liberties?" Some people have been around Christianity for so long, they seem to "own" the faith, rather than "serve" the faith. How have you seen this in your (or someone else's) life?
- B) Jesus, in John 8:31-32, tells the Jews that they must be humble (subjected) to God's Word (the truth) in order to be a disciple of His. Is this how you are living? When you sin, do you make excuses for your sin, or do you subject yourself to the Truth?
- C) Who is a disciple of Jesus Christ? Can you be a Christian and not be a disciple? Be biblical. Is there an instance where the call of discipleship is for a select group, or is it required of all?
- D) Jesus was willing to lose His reputation (John 8:49-50) because He knew He would be "justified" (glorified) by God. How are you doing with your reputation? Is your reputation about Jesus, or is it about something else? Is there anything in your life more important to you than your "Jesus" reputation?
- E) The people Jesus talks to in John 8:31-59 never show an ability to let go of their own reputations/lineage and follow Jesus Christ. It's as if Jesus Christ tells them, "this is what it takes to follow me, you have to forget about yourselves, and make Me the most important person in your lives." It challenged their very idea of who God is. As the book of John states, from the beginning God has been the Word (1:1), and the Word, Jesus Christ, has dwelt in our midst (1:14). Jesus is the Light of the world (8:12), the I AM (8:58) from beginning to end, God from God. The measure of our lives is our relationship to Him. What is Jesus calling you to as your "next step" with Him? What is holding you back from taking that step? Have you been lulled into thinking that where you are is sufficient? Perhaps there is more... Perhaps Jesus wants to continue what He started in your life in a whole new area. Pray about this in your group, share your thoughts and hopes, support one another in prayer!

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