

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to John 8

By the grace of God, we are going to finish up chapter 8.

There is a proverbial phrase that I am pretty sure we are all familiar with –

The apple doesn't fall from the tree

Or in Spanish we say - La manzana no cayó lejos del árbol

However,

- I had a roommate from Ecuador who told me that they use the phrase, de tal palo, tal astilla. Which translated would be, “A splinter like this, must come from a stick like this”

And whether we are talking about the splinter or the apple – the point of either phrase is to point out that we can look upon the way a person looks, we can see how they act or even way they think and by these things we can identify who their father is

Like father, like son

Like father, like daughter

Sometimes our children pick up our good traits – which are a good thing – we want them to pick those up,

however, sometimes our children pick up the not so good traits.

So people can look at my girls,

“you are smart just like your daddy” or they could say,

“you are well behaved just like your daddy”

And on the negative side they could say

“on a scale of 1-10 you have zero athletic skills just like your daddy”

“you are going to go bald just like your daddy”

This is what Jesus is going to do in our text this morning.

You might remember that Jesus is in a middle of a conversation with some of the religious rulers.

Remember, this conversation takes places in the courtyard near the temple.

Jesus had already announced to them and us

“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

He had already told them

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

These religious rulers have made up their mind about Jesus

They had rejected Jesus' announcement of freedom because they didn't want to accept this freedom because they don't want to embrace the reality that they need to be set free.

Their heart had hardened to the point where - they want to kill Him

They are resorting to insults – they have lost the argument.

So Jesus is going to tell this group of religious rulers – “based upon your actions, I know who your true daddy is.”

Let's pray...

As we look at our text this morning –

I want to make sure that we understand what Jesus is doing here.

Jesus is truth and He is proclaiming the truth

In the same way that you and I are called to proclaim the gospel.

But I want you to notice that when the religious rulers rejected Jesus –

Jesus didn't change the subject

He didn't say, "Well, what I really meant to say is..."

He didn't compromise

Jesus continued to proclaim the truth.

And the reason I say this, is because sometimes, we back down – when we face resistance when proclaiming the gospel.

Sometimes we try to sugarcoat it because we don't want to offend the person God has put before us to share the gospel with.

These religious rulers rejected Jesus

They insulted Jesus

But Jesus did not proclaim this message out of hate.

He did not proclaim this message out of spite.

Rather, He is doing it out of love.

He is proclaiming this message so that they can have eternal life.

Let's look at our text -

[Jhn 8:42-59 NKJV] 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

We saw last week in our study that this group of religious rulers and much of Jews during this time had the belief that because they're descendants of Abraham, they are children of God.

Therefore they believed that they had a right standing with God.

Jesus in verse 37 already acknowledged that, yes – they were physical descendants of Abraham

So they had the physical connection to Abraham – the physical link was there.

The lineage is there but they lack relationship

They were the physical offspring but were not the spiritual offspring.

In order for them to no longer be slaves of sin, they were going to need someone greater than Abraham –

That is what Jesus has been proclaiming to them.

So here in verse 42, Jesus begins by revealing to them that they have a different father.

If God were your Father – you would love Me

Jesus is saying that proof of being a child of God is –

How much you give to the church. No

How often you go to church. No

How many commandments you have kept - No

Proof is whether or not we love for Jesus.

If you don't love Jesus, you're not a child of God.

[1Jo 5:1 NKJV] 1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

What we think of Jesus will give us a clue as to whether or not God is our Father.

Jesus is telling the religious rulers –

I came from God and I am here....

Meaning: the One standing before you telling you these things came from heaven.

Jesus didn't come on His own accord

He was sent by God – on a mission to save you and me.

[Jhn 3:16 NKJV] 16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jesus came to manifest love from heaven

He came as a sacrifice, laying His own life down, so you and I can have a right relationship with God

Some people may say, wait a minute, aren't we all children of God?

We were all created by God in His image (physical)

But as we just read, love for Jesus is evidence of being a son or daughter of God.

43 "Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

Jesus is not saying that He is a poor communicator here.

The religious rulers clearly hear His words

They even processed His words

They even responded to His words

So they hear His words – however, they are not listening to His words, they are not receiving His words; they are not taking in His words.

And the reason they are not receiving His message is because they don't want to accept the truth.

Paul wrote,

[1Co 2:14 NKJV] 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

If God is not your Father, you are going to have a hard time understanding Jesus or the Scriptures.

44 "You are of [your] father **the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a **murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [resources], **for he is a liar and the father of it.****

Jesus reveals to the religious rulers that their real father is the devil.

And I want to pause here really quick to remind us all that we believe in a real devil – we believe that the bible clearly teaches that satan is real.

In the same way that we believe that demons are real and they are active in the world today.

And the reason I say this is because there are churches that teach that the devil is a metaphor – there are churches that also teach that there is no literal hell.

That is not what the bible teaches

And to teach this doctrine is to call Jesus a liar.

And therefore, the reason that Jesus is telling this group of religious rulers that they are sons of the devil is because their desires, their lusts are the same as the devil.

You like what your father likes.

Your will is to do your father's desires.

What's his desires? To kill, destroy, lie, and deceive.

And Jesus goes back to the Garden of Eden (Gen 3)

Adam and Eve dwelled with God in perfect harmony in the Garden of Eden – until the devil, in the form of the serpent came and twisted the truth – (deception)

"You will not surely die."

and they ate of the forbidden fruit.

From this deception, death entered the scene. (Murderer)

It is important to know that this was not a slip up of the devil.

He didn't accidentally lead them to eat of the fruit.

He knew exactly what he was doing

He does not stand in the truth.

There is no truth in him.

He is a liar. He is the father of lies.

These things that are Satan's desires are a part of our "old nature", what Satan speaks
"from his own resources"

This is why we need a “new nature”, a new birth.

And we must continue to “abide in His word”

45 "But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.

In contrast to the devil, Jesus tells the truth.

And because Jesus tells the truth – this group of individuals doesn't love Jesus and they don't believe Jesus.

They would rather love deception.

They loved being able to hide their sin in the dark.

They would rather be slaves to sin in private than embrace their only hope for freedom, the truth bearer, Jesus Christ.

In order to believe the good news of Jesus, we have to face the truth about ourselves.

We have to come to terms with the fact that we are all dead in our trespasses, we have to come to terms that we are sons and daughters of the devil, and because of this we have no hope for eternal life on our own.

Our only hope for eternal life is found in Jesus Christ.

Through faith in Jesus, we can become adopted sons and daughters of the One true God.

46 "Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?"

Is there any other person in this world that could say this?

Is there any other person who is not guilty of sin?

Only Jesus can say this because there is no darkness in Him.

And the thing I don't want us to miss is that Jesus makes this statement during the Feast of Tabernacles – meaning that even though He has been having this conversation with this group of religious rulers – there is a multitude of people that are listening to the conversation –

"If there is anyone in the audience that can accuse me of sin – come on up and announce it to the crowd"

And then there is a period of quietness –

"So if you can't convict Me of sin – what makes you think I am lying here?"

47 "He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God." 48 Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that **You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"**

Jesus just accused them of being the sons of the devil

And they respond with, "Jesus, You are the one with a demon"

It's a personal attack – just like before, they are losing the argument. So they resort to name calling.

They are responding with emotion instead of what is right -

You have a demon and you are a Samaritan – ohhhh, those are fighting words.

Now, the Jews considered the Samaritans half breeds –

Remember, they are in the courtyard of the women – meaning that only Jews are allowed – no Gentile.

And for a Jew to be called a Samaritan – that was the worst thing ever you could say to a Jew.

BTW -

What did the Samaritans have to do with the conversation in the first place – nothing?

Now, Jesus never addresses the Samaritan remark – He is going to address the demon remark in the next verse.

Jesus could have responded with, “Guys, I know about the Samaritans – and I love them and I am going to die for them, just like I am going to do for you”

49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. 50 "And I do not seek My [own] glory; there is One who seeks and judges.

"I don't have a demon – I honor My Father"

However, you dishonor Me, maybe you are the ones that have the demon.

51 "Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

I want to pause right here because it is important that we understand what Jesus says here in verse 51 – in its context.

This verse explains what Jesus meant earlier when He spoke about being free (vs 31-36)

Jesus is making a promise here –

Most assuredly – the Greek is amen, amen (truly, truly)

if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

Jesus is not promising that we will never die physically

If the Lord tarries and doesn't come back soon, everyone in this room is going to die a physical death

But Jesus isn't referring to a physical death here – He is referring to a spiritual one.

As a believer, we only experience physical death – not spiritual death. We will spend eternity with the Lord

However, a nonbeliever will experience a physical death and then they will face judgment and will experience a second death as they spend eternity separate from anything good from God.

If you spend time with Me, if you get to know Me, if you have a relationship with Me – then you will never taste death.

He is making this promise to the religious rulers –

It is an invitation to the sons of the devil to come to Him in faith so that they may have eternal life.

Let's see how they respond -

52 Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' 53 "Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?"

Now, we know You have a demon – you son of fornication, you Samaritan.

Abraham is dead

All the prophets in the Old Testament are dead

Who do You think You are????

Again, the religious rulers are only focused on the horizontal – not the vertical.

Yes, Abraham experienced a physical death – at the same time, Abraham is alive right now basking in God's presence.

The religious rulers couldn't grasp this – and the sad part is that this group of religious rulers were the Pharisees (vs 13) they believed in the resurrection, they believed in eternal life – and they didn't get it.

54 Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. 55 "Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.

The Pharisees asked Jesus, "who are You?"

And Jesus answered their question

You want to know who I am – I will tell you who I am

"The God **you claim to serve**, is my Father, and He is the One who glorifies me."

So not only is Jesus telling them that He is the Son of God, that He is the Messiah, that He is God, He is telling them that really don't know God, and because they really don't know God, then they don't know Him.

56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw [it] and was glad."

57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

Not only is Jesus claiming to know God, but He's claiming that He knew Abraham on a personal level.

Abraham rejoiced that he would see the coming of Jesus; and the fact that Abraham rejoiced over the coming of Jesus tells us that Jesus is claiming to be superior to Abraham.

How did Abraham know Jesus?

By the Promise that was given to him:

(Ge 12:3 NKJV) I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

We know that this blessing for the whole world was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.

There are some theologians who believe that Abraham knew Jesus through Melchizedek

And also through the encounters in Gen 18 and even in Gen 22 when Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac.

So the Pharisees are stumped – Jesus is in His 30's and Abraham had been physically dead for 1600 years –

58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Notice that Jesus didn't say, before Abraham was, I was Michael the archangel or before Abraham was, I was Lucifer's spiritual brother

Because that is what the JW and LDS teach

Jesus makes it very clear, before Abraham was, I AM –

And once again, Jesus says most assuredly – which is amen, amen or truly truly

He is claiming to be God.

He is claiming for Himself the divine covenantal name of God. The Great I AM

The One who called Abraham

The One who delivered the Children of Israel out of bondage

The JW's claim that Jesus never claimed to be God –

Church,

You cannot make a more specific claim to deity than the one Jesus has made here.

The religious rulers clearly understood the claim that Jesus made here.

And we know this by how they responded to Jesus' claim.

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Church, there are only two types of responses we may have to the claim that Jesus made in verse 58 –

We can bow down to Him in reverence, awe and submission

Or we can pick up stones – like the religious rulers.

There is no middle ground.

Either Jesus was blasphemous fool or He is the Great I AM

The Great I AM came to earth to dwell with us.

The great I AM loved us enough to die for us and set us free

The actions of the religious rulers revealed who their true father was

Though they claimed to know God – their actions revealed that they were the enemies of God.

How do we know that we are truly Children of God?

Our actions will reveal if we love Jesus

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

