

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 23RD, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

TRUE DISCIPLES (JOHN 8:30-41A) NO LONGER CASTING PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

Jesus shifts from talking to unbelieving Pharisees to the Jews who believed in Him.

- Jesus has been patient and longsuffering with the Pharisees, but instead of continuing to argue and debate with them, He turned His focus to those who chose to follow Him. **With Jesus, it is not about winning arguments, but about winning souls.**

ABIDE IN THE WORD

Jesus warned those who believed in Him that **saving faith would be evident through their submission to what He says** (John 14:15).

- What Jesus said is recorded for us in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40). **We cannot ignore what Jesus says and claim to be a follower of Him.**

"THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE"

Freedom doesn't come from academia or the pursuit of knowledge but **only from abiding in Jesus Christ and being His disciple.**

- It is a freedom that can't be bought, achieved, or earned. The world has used these words to urge people to seek "your" truth, but the **truth is not relative based on sociological or philosophical views.**

"WE HAVE NEVER BEEN ENSLAVED TO ANYONE"

The unbelieving Jews essentially claimed, **"We are free and always have been."** They were completely oblivious to their past bondage to Egypt, Persia, Syria, and currently under Rome.

- **An unwillingness to admit the previous bondage they were under led them to be unwilling to admit to the bondage they were currently under.**

SERVANT OR SON

Jesus made the contrast between those in habitual sin—who are **slaves to that sin**—and those who have received **spiritual freedom** by becoming sons.

- A servant is only invited into a home for a time and is not part of the family, but **a son takes permanent residence within the home and is guaranteed a future.**

SPIRITUAL DESCENDANTS THROUGH FAITH

Jesus was communicating the difference between our physical birth and our spiritual birth. He says these unbelieving Jews were not children of God or Abraham.

- We are all created by the Father, but not all are His children. **To be a child of God, we must have a personal faith in Jesus and bear the image of the Father.**

"YOU'RE DOING WHAT YOUR FATHER DOES."

They did not do what Abraham did. Abraham was a friend of God (Isaiah 41:8) and received His messengers (Genesis 18), but they sought to kill Jesus, who God sent. Abraham listened to and obeyed God, but they rejected the Son of God.

- **Instead, Jesus claimed that by their actions, they did what Satan does.**

FATHER OF LIES (JOHN 8:41B-47) CONTINUING IN INSULTING JESUS

Once again, the unbelieving crowd tries to insult Jesus and His earthly origin by virgin birth (8:19).

- Their claim remained that **Jesus was not born through miraculous events but through sexual immorality.** They claimed to have one Father—God—but **Jesus had an unknown father and a father who raised Him.**

"YOU ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL."

Jesus then brings the issue back to the topic of spiritual parentage. He points to exactly who their father is. **They are spiritual children of the devil because they do what the devil does—lie and kill.**

- Lying is in Satan's character; it's who he is. These **religious leaders set up a woman in an attempt to accuse Jesus.**

WE WILL IMITATE OUR FATHER

God is the Father of truth (the Son is Jesus Christ), and the devil is the father of lies.

- We show who we belong to by imitating our father. If we lie, cheat, and deceive, we display that our nature is from the devil, but **if we are gracious, merciful, and loving, then we display a nature that is from God the Father.**

THE FATHER OF LIES

Lying is what Satan will use most as a weapon against God's children to attempt to separate us from the Father.

- He will use lies like, "There is no God, God doesn't care about you, the Bible is not trustworthy" **to remove our trust in God**, but he also uses lies like, "We can earn our way to Heaven," **to distort our trust in God.**

THE GREAT DECEPTION

The devil does not need us to worship him in order to draw us away from the Father. He only needs to have us worship ourselves.

- The greatest deception of Satan is to have us believe that we are children of God when **we have rejected the truth and are focused on serving ourselves and our selfish desires.**

A TESTIMONY TO HIS SINLESS LIFE

Jesus opens Himself up to scrutiny from His accusers when He says, **"Who among you can convict me of sin?"**

- His accusers had only empty claims without any evidence of any sin in Jesus' life. **His accusers having nothing on Jesus is another testimony to His sinless and perfect nature.**

I AM (JOHN 8:48-59) FINAL VERBAL ASSAULT

The unbelieving Jews have been unsuccessful in trapping Jesus and deterring people from following Him, so they hurl out final verbal attacks against Him.

- To call Him a Samaritan would equate Him with the most hated race to the Jews, but to say He was demon possessed meant He was an instrument of Satan, not God.

HE IS NOT WHO THEY CLAIMED

Jesus points out that He does not have a demon and is not an instrument for evil.

- **His desire was to honor God in everything He did.** If Satan were His spiritual parent, as they claimed, then He would have exhibited characteristics of Satan. However, **He displayed humility instead of being prideful and self-seeking.**

HE IS GREATER THAN ABRAHAM AND THE PROPHETS

Jesus offers those who keep His Word the promise that they will never taste death. However, the Jews were appalled that Jesus offered what Abraham couldn't, and He placed Himself as greater than Abraham and the prophets.

- **They were even more enraged when He claimed Abraham rejoiced in Him** though He was not old enough to see Abraham.

HE IS THE GREAT I AM, THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA

We only have to look at the response of the crowd to see what Jesus meant when He said, **"before Abraham was, I Am."**

- Jesus claimed to be the same voice that spoke to Moses in the burning bush (Exodus 3:13-14). **They wanted to stone Him for His claim of perfect unity with the Father because He Himself is God.**

IF WE ARE DISCIPLES OF JESUS...

- **"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"** (Matthew 28:18-20, NIV).
- **"Teacher, Which is the greatest commandment of the Law?"** Jesus replied: **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."** This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: **"Love your neighbor as yourself"** (Matthew 22:36-40, NIV).

WE ARE TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

- True disciples of Jesus believe in the truth and obey it.
- **If we are not making disciples, loving God, and loving people, then we cannot claim to be a follower of Jesus.**
- Jesus promises that **He is with us** (Matthew 28:20) and that the Spirit of your Father is speaking through you (Matthew 10:20).