

***“Family Matters”***  
***John 8:37-47***

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
  - To The Gospel Of John:
    - And - To Where We Left Off:
      - Just Before Christmas & New Years:
        - John Chapter 8!
    - Where - We Have Been Going Through:
      - Jesus' "Talk At The Temple" - Which Took Place:
        - Right After:
          - He Forgave The Woman:
            - Caught In Adultery!
2. And - All Through His Talk:
  - Jesus Addresses Many Different Matters:
    - That The People:
      - Needed To Hear!
    - After Teaching Them:
      - About The Matter Of Forgiveness:
        - By His Own Example!
      - He Went On To Teach Them:
        - Even More About Himself!
      - Including:
        - His Function:
          - As The Light Of The World!
        - His Faithfulness:
          - To The Will Of His Father! And:
        - His Freedom:
          - That They Could Receive:
            - If They Just Believed In Him!
3. And Though We Are Told:
  - In 8:30 - That "Many" Did:
    - "Believe In Him!"
      - For Their Own Forgiveness & Freedom!
  - Still - Many Others:
    - Did Not See Their Need:
      - For Forgiveness Or Freedom:
        - Because - As They Told Jesus In 8:33:
          - "We Be Abraham's Seed!"
  - And So - They:
    - Kept Themselves Closed Off:
      - To All That Jesus Came:
        - To Give Them!
4. And So - As Jesus Continues:
  - His "Talk In The Temple" - In The Verses:
    - That We Come To This Morning:
      - Jesus Teaches Them About:
        - His Own Family!
      - And - What It Really Means:
        - To Have God As Their Faithful!
  - Because - The Family You Belong To:
    - Really Does Matter!
      - Sometimes It Can Make A Big Difference:
        - In How You Are Brought Up:
          - In This World!
            - **IE:** Like The Royal Family!
  - But - It Makes A Much Bigger Difference:

- In Your Relationship With God!
- The Family You Belong To - And:
- The Father You Have:
- Really Does Matter!

5. And So - Starting In 8:37 - And Through - 8:47:

- Jesus Says - Most Likely To:
  - The Jews Who Still Did Not Believe:
    - "I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. / I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. / They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. / But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. / Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. / Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. / Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. / Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. / And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. / Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? / He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God!"

6. Now - All Through These Verses:

- Jesus Is Trying To Lead The People:
  - To Understand & Admit That:
    - They Belonged To:
      - A Different Family:
        - Then They Thought!
  - And - To Do This:
    - He Wanted Them To Consider:
      - Their Family Resemblance!
        - **IE:** Any Time A Baby Is Born - The Question Is - Who Does It Look Like & Favor? Christian!
  - Though This Is Often True:
    - Of Physical Traits - In:
      - Natural Families!
  - Jesus Wanted Them:
    - To Think About:
      - The Character Traits They Possessed:
        - In Their Spiritual Families!
  - And - This Is What:
    - We Need To Think About:
      - As Well!
  - And - Especially:
    - What Your Character Traits Reveal:
      - About Your True Father!

7. And So - In 8:37-43:

- Jesus First Describes:

### 1. ***The Truth About God's Family!***

- Even - His Own Family!
  - The Family Of Our Savior!
    - And - In 8:37 - When He Acknowledges That:
      - They Are "Abraham's Seed!"
  - But - He Wanted Them To See:
    - That - To Be Part Of God's Family:
      - Had Nothing To Do With:
        - Their Natural Pedigree!
    - Neither Did It Have Anything:

- To Do With Their:
  - National Privilege!
- And - What Was True Then:
  - Is True Today!
    - Just Being Part Of:
      - A Christian Family - Or:
      - A Christianized Nation:
        - Does Not Mean That You Are Part Of The Family Of God!
- Instead - There Must Be & Will Be:
  - Spiritual Proof!
    - There Must Be & Will Be:
      - Character Traits:
        - That Reveal Who Your True Father Is!
- And - The First Characteristic Jesus Describes Is:
- Listening To His Word!
  - In 8:37b-38! This Is What:
    - A True Child Of God:
      - Will Look Like!
        - He / She Will Listen:
          - To Christ!
  - Again - 8:37-38 - Jesus Says:
    - “I know that ye are Abraham’s seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. / I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father!”
  - Really Listening To The Word Of God & Christ:
    - Is Evidence That:
      - You Are Part Of The Family Of God!
        - But - Instead - Many In That Crowd:
          - Had “No Room” For His Word:
            - In Their Lives & Hearts!
    - Instead - There Was Evidence:
      - Of Another Sort - That Revealed:
        - They Were Part Of Another Family - And:
          - Had Another Father!
      - Would They Come To Recognize:
        - Their True Family & Father?
          - Well - Clearly - They Did Not!
            - Because - In 8:39 - “They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father!”
          - So - They Didn’t Quite Get:
            - The Gist Of What Jesus:
              - Was Telling Them!
        - So - He Goes On To Describe Another Character Trait:
          - Of Those Who Belong To:
            - The Family Of God!
              - And That Is:
        - Living For God!
          - Even As Abraham Did!
            - Which Is What We Find Next In:
              - 8:39b-41a - “Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham. / But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham! Ye do the deeds of your Father!”
            - So - This Is What:
              - A True Child Of God:
                - Will Look Like!
                  - He / She Will Live For God!
                    - Even As Abraham Did!
            - In Genesis 26:5 - God Himself:
              - Gave This Testimony About Abraham:

- “Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws!”
- And - This Was True:
  - Even Before The Ten Commandments:
    - Were Given To Moses!
- But - Once Again - There Was Evidence:
  - In Their Lives:
    - Of Another Sort - That Revealed:
      - They Were Part Of Another Family - And:
        - Had Another Father!
- Would They Follow:
  - Where Jesus Was Leading Them?
    - To Recognize:
      - Their True Family Resemblance?
        - And - Their True Father?
  - Well - Once Again - They Did Not!
    - Because - In 8:41b - “Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God!”
  - These Jews Claimed To Be:
    - The Purest Stock:
      - Of God’s Family!
        - But - What About Jesus?
  - Later On - In 8:48 - These Jews:
    - Will Call Jesus:
      - A Samaritan! Suggesting:
        - That He Was From An Mixed, Impure Family!
  - They May Have Even Been:
    - Calling Into Question:
      - Jesus’ Own Birth - As Being:
        - Illegitimate! Since - He Was Born Under A Cloud Of Uncertain Circumstances!
  - “Who Did Jesus Think He Was?”
    - To Question *Their* Legitimacy:
      - As Children Of God!
- It Is Hard For Us As Sinners:
  - To Recognize & Admit:
    - Our True Family Traits!
      - God Must Reveal This To Us!
  - And So - Jesus Goes On To Describe:
    - Even Another Character Trait:
      - Of Those Who Belong To:
        - The Family Of God!
          - Even:
- Loving Christ!
  - In 8:42 - “Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me!”
    - This Too Is What:
      - A True Child Of God:
        - Will Look Like!
      - He / She Will Love Jesus Christ!
        - Even With - A Growing Love!
  - After All - Jesus Has Such:
    - A Special Relationship:
      - With God The Father!
    - Since Jesus “Proceeded” From God:
      - He Has Always Had:
        - A Special Communion:
          - With Him! And:

- Since Jesus Did Not Come Of Himself:
  - He Was Given:
    - A Special Commission:
      - From The Same God They Claimed As:
        - Their Father!
- But - There Was No Evidence:
  - In Their Lives:
    - That They Loved Jesus!
  - Instead - They Hated Jesus:
    - And Wanted To Kill Jesus:
      - Because - He Was Telling Them:
        - That Their Works Were Evil & Wrong! (7:7)
  - And So - This Too Revealed:
    - They Were Part Of Another Family - And:
      - Had Another Father!
- But - These Are The Character Traits:
  - Of The Family Of God!
    - If You Are His Child - You Will:
      - Listen To His Word!
      - Live According To His Will! And:
      - Love His Son - Jesus Christ!
  - Are These Traits:
    - Evident In Your Life?
      - In A Clear Way?
      - In A Growing Way?
      - In An Obedient Way?
        - Even Jesus Will Say - In John 14:15 - "If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments!"
  - And Yet - Some:
    - Even When There Is No Family Resemblance:
      - Will Insist That:
        - They Have God As Their Father!
          - **IE:** Aren't We All God's Children?
  - And So - In 8:43 - Jesus Asks & Answers:
    - The Question:
      - "Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word!"
    - The Reason Why:
      - Those Unbelievers:
        - Were Not Following Jesus' Speech Was Because:
          - They Were Of Another Family Tree Entirely!
  - Its As If They Were:
    - From Another Country:
      - And Couldn't Understand:
        - His Language!
    - And So - Starting In:
      - 8:44 - Jesus Comes Right Out:
        - And Tells Them:
          - Who Their Father Is - And - What Family They Belong To!
  - And - He Reveals:

## 2. ***The Truth About Their Family!***

- Even - The Family Of Sinners:
  - Apart From Christ!
    - 8:44 - "Ye Are Of Your Father The Devil!"
      - Just Imagine:
        - How They Must Have Felt:
          - When They Heard These Words!
- It's The Same:

- For All Sinners:
  - When They Are Confronted With:
    - This Truth!
- Apart From Christ:
  - “Ye Are Of Your Father The Devil!”
    - And - You Bear His Character Traits:
      - In Your Heart & Life:
        - As Proof!
- The Family Of The Devil:
  - Will Resemble The Devil:
    - In Devilish Ways!
      - First - They Will Possess:
- The Desires Of The Devil!
  - In 8:44 - Jesus Tells Them:
    - “The Lusts Of Your Father Ye Will Do!”
      - This Does Not Just Mean That:
        - They Will Do What:
          - The Devil Does!
      - But Rather - The Family Of The Devil:
        - Desires To Do:
          - What The Devil Desires!
        - Even Wanting To Do:
          - What The Devil Wants! And:
        - Willing To Do:
          - The Will Of The Devil!
      - The Wills Of Sinners:
        - Are Aligned With:
          - The Will Of Satan Himself!
    - And - The Desire Of The Devil:
      - Has Always Been To:
        - Disregard God’s Word - And:
          - To Disobey God’s Will!
      - And This Is What:
        - A True Child Of The Devil:
          - Will Be Like:
            - In Their Own Lives!
    - But - Even More:
      - They Will Embrace:
  - The Destruction Of The Devil!
    - Also In 8:44 - Jesus Tells Them:
      - “He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him!”
        - All The Way Back:
          - “In The Beginning” - When God First Created Adam & Eve:
            - The Devil Sought To Kill Them!
      - And - He Did So:
        - By Leading Them Away From God:
          - With Lies - And:
            - Tempting Them:
              - To Sin!
          - And Though - Adam & Eve:
            - Were Responsible For Their Sin & Death:
              - The Devil Was The One:
                - Who Took The Initiative In Bringing About Their Death!
          - And - Ever Since:
            - The Devil - And His Family:
              - Has Embraced Violence & Destruction:
                - Even To The Point Of:

- Killing “The Prince Of Life” Himself! (Acts 3:15)
- Did They Not See:
  - The Devil - In Their Own Desires:
    - To Kill Jesus?
    - How Blind They Were To Their Own Sin!
- But - This Is Still What:
  - A Child Of The Devil:
    - Will Be Like!
      - They Will Embrace Violence & Destruction:
        - To Achieve Their Own Ends!
  - And - As Jesus Taught In The Sermon On The Mount:
    - This Does Not Have To Be:
      - Outward & Physical!
      - But - Inward!
    - Matthew 5:21-22 - “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: / But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire!”
- But - Even More:
  - Those Who Have The Devil As Their Father:
    - Will Embrace:
- The Deception Of The Devil!
  - Also In 8:44 - Jesus Tells Them:
    - That When The Devil:
      - “Speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it!”
  - So Often - What You Say:
    - Can Reveal Who You Are!
      - **IE:** You Can Tell What A Person Does - By The Words / Jargon The Use! Like Doctors / Nurses / Teachers / Pastors!
  - Even So - What The Devil Says:
    - Reveals Who He Is!
      - He Lies - And So:
        - Is A Liar - And:
        - The Father Of Lies!
  - And - He Was A Liar:
    - From The Beginning Too!
      - Though God Told Adam & Eve:
        - “Thou Shalt Surely Die” When You Eat From The “Tree Of The Knowledge Of Good And Evil!”
      - The Devil Told Them:
        - “Ye Shall Not Surely Die!”
  - And - Sinners Embrace:
    - The Lies & Deception Of The Devil!
      - Instead Of Embracing The Truth:
        - About The True Greatness & Goodness & Grace Of God!
      - They Embrace The Lie:
        - Of Their Own Greatness & Goodness & Wisdom!
    - And - As Paul Writes In:
      - Romans 1:25 - The Devil’s Own Family:
        - “Changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator!”
- Deception - Of Others & Of Yourself:
  - Is A Character Trait:
    - Of The Devil!
      - Do You See This Trait:
        - In Your Own Heart?
  - The Family You Belong To:

- Really Does Matter:
  - For Eternity!
- Make Sure You Are Not:
  - Deceiving Yourself!
- But - We Can Also See:
  - That Those Who Have The Devil:
    - As Their Father - Will Possess:
- The Disbelief Of The Devil!
  - Because - In 8:45 - Jesus Goes On And Says:
    - “And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not!”
  - The Main Difference:
    - Between A True Child Of God - And:
      - A Child Of The Devil:
        - Is Whether Or Not:
          - You Believe In Jesus!
    - And - Those Who Still Belong To:
      - The Devil’s Family:
        - Do Not Believe In Jesus:
          - *Because* - Jesus Says:
            - He Is Telling Them The Truth!
  - The Truth Is Like A Foreign Language:
    - To A Sinner!
      - And - The Truth About Christ:
        - Repels Them:
          - From Christ!
- These Are The Character Traits:
  - Of The Family Of The Devil!
    - If You Are His Child - You Will Embrace:
      - His Desires!
      - His Destruction!
      - His Deception!
      - And - His Disbelief!
  - Are These Traits:
    - Evident In Your Life?
      - In 1 John 3:10 - John Further Tells Us:
        - “In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother!”
- And - This Is Why:
  - What Jesus Said To Nicodemus:
    - Back In John 3 - Is So Important!
      - 3:3 - “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God!”
  - The Only Way:
    - For You To Escape:
      - The Family Of The Devil:
        - And Become Part Of:
          - The Family Of God:
            - Is To Be Born Again!
  - And - The Only Way:
    - For You To Leave Behind:
      - The Character Traits:
        - Of The Devil’s Family:
    - And Take On:
      - The Character Traits:
        - Of God’s Family:
          - Is To Be Adopted By God Himself!



**Conclusion:**

1. And So - Jesus Brings This Part Of:
  - His "Talk In The Temple" - To Its Climax:
    - In 8:46-47 - When He Makes This Challenge:
      - "Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? / He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God!"
  - In 8:46 - Jesus Throws Down The Gauntlet:
    - And - Challenges Them:
      - To Disprove His Words:
        - By His Works!
    - Because - The Sinlessness Of Christ:
      - Is Proof Of:
        - The Truthfulness Of Christ!
    - He Alone Could Make This Challenge:
      - Because - He Only, Ever Did:
        - "Those Things That Please" His Father! (8:29)
2. So - Because He Is:
  - Part Of The Family Of God:
    - He Could Only Speak The Truth!
      - The Truth About:
        - God's Family - And:
      - The Truth About:
        - Their Family - Even:
          - The Devil's Family!
  - And - If You Hear:
    - The Truth Of Jesus' Words:
      - Then - You Are "Of God!"
    - He Is Your True Father!
      - And - You Belong To:
        - His Family!
  - But - If You Do Not Hear:
    - The Truth Of Jesus' Words:
      - Then - You Are "Not Of God!"
    - You Have Another Father!
      - And - You Still Belong To:
        - Another Family!
          - Even The Devil's!
  - 3. And - You Need Jesus:
    - To Set You Free!
      - So - What Family Do You Belong To?
        - Who Do You Have As Your Father?
        - Who Do You Resemble Most?
    - If God Has Shown You:
      - Your True Family Today:
        - Then - Listen To His Words!
          - And - Believe In & Love Jesus More!

***Grace Baptist Church***

***Stephen Elmer, Pastor***

***4245 North 200 West***

***Greenfield, Indiana 46140***

***317-326-2362***

***[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)***

***[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)***

***[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)***