

“Worthy Is The Lamb”
John 8:48-59

Introduction:

1. This Morning - As We Turn Back To:
 - John 8 - We Will Come To:
 - The Conclusion & The Climax:
 - Of Jesus’ “Talk At The Temple” - Which:
 - Is Something Like:
 - The “Point Of No Return” For The Conflict That Has Come Between Jesus:
 - And The Unbelieving Jews!
 - Because - It Is In These Verses:
 - Where - After Leading The Jews:
 - To See The Truth About Themselves:
 - And - The Family They Belong To:
 - Even The Family Of The Devil!
 - Now - He Leads Them:
 - To See The Truth About Himself!
 - And - Not Only The Family He Belongs To - But Also:
 - The Unique Relationship He Has With God His Father!
2. And So - Right After Jesus:
 - Challenges That Unbelieving Crowd:
 - In 8:47 - By Telling Them:
 - “He that is of God heareth God’s words: ye therefore hear [them] not, because ye are not of God!”
 - The Crowd Challenges & Questions Jesus Three Times:
 - Starting In 8:48 - And:
 - The Answers Jesus Gives Them:
 - Will Cause Them To Try To Act On:
 - Their Murderous Intent:
 - To Destroy Jesus!
 - “Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?”
 - “Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. / And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. / Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death!”
 - “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. / Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?”
 - “Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth 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. / Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw [it], and was glad!”
 - “Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?”
 - “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am!”
 - “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!”
3. All That Jesus Did & All That Jesus Said:
 - In This Chapter:
 - He Did & Said - To Bring About:
 - A Response! Even:
 - A Response Of:
 - Believing & Honoring Him!
 - This Is Why He:
 - Offered His Forgiveness:
 - To The Woman Caught In Adultery:
 - At The Beginning Of This Chapter!
 - This Is Why He:
 - Told About His Function & His Faithfulness:

- As The Christ:
 - Who Came To Be The Light Of The World!
- This Is Why He:
 - Offered True Freedom:
 - To Those Who Believe In Him:
 - From Being Servants & Slaves To Sin!
- And - This Is Why He:
 - Described The Differences:
 - Between The Family Of God - And:
 - The Family Of The Devil!
 - As We Saw Last Sunday!

4. All Jesus Did & All Jesus Said:
- In The Temple That Day:
 - Was Designed To Clearly Identify Himself:
 - As “The Lamb Of God, Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!” (1:29)
 - And - According To Jesus’ Own Words:
 - In 8:50 - It Was Not He:
 - Who Was Seeking His Own Honor & Glory As The Lamb Of God!
 - But - God The Father Himself!
 - “There Is One That Seeketh And Judgeth!”
 - God The Father:
 - Was Seeking The Honor & Glory:
 - For His Son!
 - And - Though Some Did Believe & Honor Him! Yet:
 - Far Too Many Still Did Not!
 - And - They Hardened Their Hearts Even More!

5. But - What Was True Then:
- Is Still True Today!
 - God The Father Is Still:
 - The “One That Seeketh” Honor:
 - For His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And - It Is The Kind Of Honor:
 - That He Will One Day Receive:
 - In Majesty - As We Find In:
 - Revelation 5:12 - Where The Heavenly Choir Proclaims Together - “Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing!”
 - And - I Want You To See With Me:
 - This Morning - That Jesus Christ:
 - Is Truly Worthy:
 - Of All The Honor:
 - That You Can Give Him!
 - And - Not Just Honor:
 - With Your Words:
 - As We Have Done In Our Singing This Morning!
 - But Honor:
 - From Your Hearts - And:
 - With Your Lives!
 - Because - Jesus Christ Is Worthy!
 - Worthy To Receive:
 - Your Honor - Today & Always!
 - And - The First Reason He Is Worthy:
 - That We See In John 8 - Is Because Of:

1. *His True Glory!*

- The True Glory Of Jesus Christ:
 - Demands Our Honor!
 - And Yet - Instead - The Jews Actually Challenge & Question His Glory:

- In 8:48 - Even After Seeing & Hearing:
 - All That Jesus Did & Said Before Them!
- “Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?”
 - Of Course - These Jews Were Offended:
 - At What Jesus Had Just Said To Them!
 - 8:47 - “Ye Are Not Of God!”
 - But - Instead Of Addressing:
 - The Family Traits In Their Own Lives:
 - To See If What Jesus Said About Them Was So!
 - They Start To Attack Jesus:
 - And His Own Character & Reputation!
- And They Even Dare To Suggest That It Was He:
 - Who Was Not Only:
 - Contaminated With Sin:
 - Like Those Mixed-Race, Unclean, Samaritans Were!
 - But That He Was Even:
 - Controlled By Satan!
 - And Yet - What Proof Did They Have?
 - They Couldn’t Even “Convince Him” Of A Single Sin! (8:46)
- But - In Spite Of Their Challenge Of Jesus:
 - Jesus Reveals His True Glory:
 - Even More! To Them & To Us!
 - In 8:49-51 - “Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. / And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. / Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death!”
 - So - After Answering Their Accusation:
 - Jesus Goes On To Reveal:
- The Glory Of His Honor!
 - In 8:49 - Jesus Tells Them:
 - What His Entire Life Was All About!
 - It Was To Honor His Father In Heaven!
 - “I Honor My Father!”
 - Every Work Jesus Did - And:
 - Every Word Jesus Spoke:
 - Was Personally & Actively & Intentionally Done To:
 - Honor His Heavenly Father!
 - This Was The Driving Force Of His Life!
 - And - This Was Part Of:
 - Jesus’ Own Glory!
 - And - Those Who Live For God This Way:
 - Ought To Be Honored Themselves!
 - But - Instead - They:
 - Dishonored Him!
 - And - To Dishonor The One Who Is Honoring God:
 - Is Further Proof That You Are Not Of God!
 - But Then - Jesus Further Revealed:
- The Glory Of His Humility!
 - In 8:50 - Jesus Tells Them:
 - That In His Whole Life & Ministry:
 - He Never Sought After:
 - His Own Glory!
 - But - There Was Still:
 - “One That Seeketh” For His Glory:
 - “And Judgeth!”
 - And That One:
 - Was & Is God The Father!
- This Gives Us A Glimpse:
 - Into The Relationship Between:

- The Members Of The Trinity!
 - Each Seeks After The Glory:
 - Of The Others!
- And Though Jesus Never Sought:
 - For His Own Glory & Honor:
 - God The Father:
 - Was Seeking It For Him!
 - And He Will Judge:
 - Everyone - For How You Honor His Son!
- But Then - Jesus Goes On Further - To Reveal:
 - The Glory Of His Hope!
 - In 8:51 - He Uses The Same Formula:
 - That He's Used Already 12 Times In John:
 - To Introduce A Truth That Is:
 - Certain & Continual & Consequential!
 - "Verily, Verily, I Say Unto You!"
 - And - What Is This Truth?
 - "If A Man Keep My Saying (Word / Teaching), He Shall Never See Death!"
 - To Keep Means:
 - To Believe It & To Cleave To It!
 - And - Would Involve:
 - All Of His Teaching:
 - In This Chapter!
 - And - When You:
 - Hear & Heed His Word:
 - You Honor Him - And:
 - Will Experience His Life & Hope:
 - For Ever!
 - To "Not See Death" Means:
 - You Will Not Experience Death:
 - In Its Deepest & Most Permanent Sense!
 - Spiritual & Eternal Separation From God@
 - And - This Is All Part Of:
 - The Glory Of Jesus Christ!
 - And - This Is Why:
 - He Is Worthy Of Your Honor:
 - Even Today!
 - He Is Worthy Because:
 - He Always Honors His Father!
 - He Was Always Humble! And:
 - He Was Always Offering Hope!
 - And Now - We Can Follow In His Footsteps!
 - "Worthy Is The Lamb!"
 - To Receive Your Honor!
 - In Your Heart & In Your Life!
 - Is He?

* The Second Reason He Is Worthy - Is Because Of:

2. ***His True Greatness!***

- The True Greatness Of Jesus Christ:
 - Demands Our Honor!
 - And Yet - Instead - The Jews Once Again Challenge & Question His Greatness:
 - To Even Offer The Hope / Life He Just Did!
 - So - In 8:52-53 - We Are Told - "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. / Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?"
 - So - First - They Dishonor Jesus:

- By Doubling Down On Their Accusation:
 - That “Thou Hast A Devil!”
- But - They Dishonor Him More:
 - By Questioning His Greatness:
 - Over - First - The Grave!
 - It Is Clear From 8:52 - That They Did:
 - Hear What Jesus Was Saying!
 - Or - At Least - Up To A Point!
 - But - They Didn’t Fully Understand Or Believe!
 - There’s A Small Difference:
 - Between What Jesus Said & What They Say Jesus Said!
 - Jesus Said:
 - “If A Man Keep My Saying, He Shall Never See Death!”
 - They Said:
 - “If A Man Keep My Saying, He Shall Never Taste Death!”
 - Now - Even Though Both Senses:
 - Can Refer To Experiencing Death:
 - There May Be A Difference:
 - In The Meaning Of Jesus’ Words!
 - So - Even Though It Is True That:
 - Just About Every Man Has Or Will:
 - “Taste” And Experience:
 - Death - Even Physical Death!
 - Some Who Die:
 - Won’t “See” Or Even Perceive It:
 - As Death!
 - Its As If Jesus Is Telling Us:
 - That Even If Someone Dies:
 - Death Itself Will Be The Entrance Into Life!
 - So That - Death Becomes For The Believer More Like Sleep!
 - Jesus Will Even Say In 11:25:
 - “He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live!”
 - So - Yes - Jesus Is Greater:
 - Then The Grave!
 - And - That Is Why He Is Worthy:
 - Of Your Honor!
- But Then - They Further:
 - Question His Greatness:
 - Over Who They Considered To Be:
 - The Greatest - Among Men!
 - Even Abraham & The Old Testament Prophets Of God!
 - 8:53 - “Art Thou Greater Than Our Father Abraham?
 - “Whom Makest Thou Thyself?”
 - Of Course - Jesus Is Not “Making” Himself To Be Anyone Or Anything!
 - He Just Is! And:
 - He Is Greater!
 - And So - Jesus Tells Them:
 - To Listen To The Testimony:
 - Of The Ones They Claim To Be:
 - Their Own Fathers!
 - Because - They Testify:
 - To His True Greatness!
 - In 8:54-55 - Jesus Tells Them To Listen To:
 - The Testimony Of God His Father!
 - “Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth 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!”
 - Back In 8:41 - The Jews Made The Claim:

- That - "We Have One Father, Even God!"
 - So - Jesus Offers Them The Testimony:
 - Of God Himself!
- And - It Was God - Jesus Own Father:
 - Who Honored Him!
 - How? Especially Through:
 - The Works That Confirmed His Words!
 - According To Acts 2:22:
 - Jesus Was - "A Man Approved Of God – By Miracles And Wonders And Signs!"
- And Yet - Did They Listen:
 - To The Witness Of God?
 - No! In Fact - Jesus Says:
 - They Didn't Even Know Him!
 - But - He Did! And Does!
 - And - The Evidence Of Jesus' Knowledge:
 - Of God - Was His Obedience:
 - To God!
 - And - This Is Always The Evidence:
 - For A True Knowledge Of God:
 - As Your Father!
- But Then - In 8:56 - Jesus Goes On To Tell Them To Listen To:
 - The Testimony Of Abraham Their Father!
 - "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw [it], and was glad!"
 - Back In 8:39 - The Jews Made The Claim:
 - That - "Abraham Is Our Father!"
 - And - In 8:37 - Jesus Himself Recognized:
 - That - "Ye Are Abraham's Seed!"
 - So - Jesus Then Offers Them The Testimony:
 - Of Abraham!
 - Would They Listen To Him?
 - Now - The Question Is:
 - Is The Testimony Of Abraham Given By Jesus:
 - Something That The Jews:
 - Would Have Known? Or:
 - Is It Something That Only:
 - Jesus Knew?
 - Certainly Abraham Responded To:
 - God's Promises:
 - About A Future Seed:
 - Who Would Bring Blessing To The World!
 - And - The Provision:
 - Of That Promise:
 - Through The Birth & Rescue:
 - Of Isaac!
 - But Jesus Goes A Step Further:
 - To Reveal Abraham's True Feelings:
 - About These Promises!
 - About His Delight & Joy:
 - Brought About Faith!
 - And - The Object Of Abraham's Faith:
 - Was His Own Day!
 - "My Day!" Jesus Says!
- And - Jesus Could Know The Testimony:
 - Of Both God & Abraham:
 - Because - Jesus Knew:
 - Both God & Abraham!
 - And - This Reveals:

- The True Greatness Of Jesus!
 - He Is Greater!
 - He Is Greater Than:
 - The Grave - Because:
 - He Is Life!
 - He Is Greater Than:
 - Their Greatest - Because:
 - He Is Truth!
- And - The Testimony:
 - Of Both His Father & Their Father:
 - Of Both God & Abraham:
 - Confirms His Greatness!
 - And For This:
 - Jesus Is Worthy Of Honor!
 - Of Theirs! Of Yours!
 - Honor Of Heart & Life!
 - True Of You?
- This Then Leads Us To:
 - The Very Climax Of:
 - Jesus' "Talk At The Temple!" And:

* The Third Reason He Is Worthy Of Honor! And That Is Because Of:

3. His True Goodness!

- The True Goodness Of Jesus Christ:
 - Deserves & Demands Your Honor!
 - And Yet - Once Again - The Jews Challenge & Question His Goodness!
 - By Challenging & Questioning:
 - His Truthfulness!
 - So - In 8:57 - "Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?"
 - Jesus Made A Claim That:
 - He Knew Both God & Abraham:
 - And Their Testimonies:
 - About Him!
 - So - Jesus Was Either:
 - Telling Them The Truth - Or:
 - He Was Lying!
 - Just One Or The Other!
 - Of Course - They Believed:
 - Jesus Was Lying!
 - And If So - He Could Not Be:
 - Good!
 - He Could Not Be:
 - Who He Claimed To Be!
 - But - To This - Jesus Replies:
 - In 8:58 - That:
 - He Was Not Only:
 - Telling Them The Truth!
 - He Was Truth Itself!
 - And That:
 - His Word Is True!
 - For The Fourteenth Time Jesus Uses The Formula:
 - "Verily, Verily, I Say Unto You!"
 - A Formula That Appears A Total Of 25 Times In The Gospel Of John!
 - Again - To Introduce A Truth That Is Certain & Continual & Consequential!
 - To Everyone!
 - And - Everything That Jesus:
 - Has Said & Will Say:

- Is Always So!
 - And Must Be Trusted & Believed:
 - In Order To Benefit You Personally!
- And - To Believe In Jesus' Word:
 - Is To Honor Jesus Himself!
 - And - He Is Worthy:
 - Of Your Honor!
 - But - What Is The Truth:
 - That Jesus Offers Them?
 - The Fact That:
- His Worth Is True!
 - His Worth As The True God:
 - They Claimed To Know As Their Own Father!
 - 8:58 - "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am!"
 - One Describes This Verse:
 - As "Jesus' Boldest Declaration About Himself!"
 - Because - Not Only Does It Connect Him:
 - With Abraham - But:
 - With God Himself!
 - To Say - "Before Abraham Was!"
 - Jesus Was Stating That:
 - He Was Alive:
 - Before Abraham Even:
 - Came To Be! And:
 - To Say - "I Am!"
 - Jesus Was Describing His Own:
 - State Of Eternal Being:
 - Using The Same Phrase God Used To Identify Himself To Moses:
 - In Exodus 3:14 - "I Am Who I Am!"
 - So - Jesus Was Before Abraham Was!
 - And - This Was The Answer To Their Question!
 - But - Jesus Was Was Different:
 - Than Abraham's Was!
 - Because - Jesus Says:
 - "I AM!"
 - Describing His Own:
 - Personal & Perpetual Presence:
 - As God Himself!
 - Jesus Could Say He Knew:
 - Both Their Father, Abraham:
 - And - His Father, God:
 - Because He Is The Great I Am!
 - And - With This - Jesus Confirms:
 - Not Only His Truthfulness - But:
 - His Goodness!
 - Because - "God Is Not A Man, That He Should Lie!" (Numbers 23:19)
 - And - This Too Is Why:
 - Jesus Is Worthy:
 - Of All Your Honor!
 - Because Of His True:
 - Glory & Greatness & Goodness!

Conclusion:

1. And Yet - How Did The Jews At The Temple Respond?
 - In 8:59a - "Then took they up stones to cast at him!"
 - In Other Words:
 - They Understood What Jesus Said - And:
 - Even More - They Understood:

- What Jesus Meant!
 - And - They Took Matters Into Their Own Hand:
 - And Were Going To Exercise:
 - Mob Justice - For The Presumed Crime:
 - Of Blasphemy!
 - Because Jesus Was Saying Things Only God Should Say!
 - And - They Sought To Act Upon:
 - The Murderous Thoughts:
 - They Had In Their Hearts:
 - All Along!
2. But - What We See Next:
- Goes Along With What John Has Stated:
 - Several Times Already In This Gospel!
 - That Jesus' Hour Had Not Yet Come!
 - So - What Happens?
 - 8:59b - "But Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by!"
 - In Some Way - Jesus Was Able To:
 - Go Right "Through The Midst" Of That:
 - Crowd - That Blood-Thirsty Mob:
 - And Just Leave The Courts Of The Temple!
 - How Did He Do This?
 - Well - We Are Told That:
 - "Jesus Hid Himself!"
 - We Are Not Told How:
 - Jesus Was Hidden - Just That:
 - He Was Hidden!
 - But - In Some Way:
 - Jesus Was Concealed From The Crowd:
 - Either In A Supernatural Way Or In A Natural Way:
 - Or Both!
 - But - Because The Crowd:
 - Did Not Honor The Lamb Of God:
 - He Took Himself - And:
 - All His Glory & Greatness & Goodness:
 - And Departed From The Temple!

3. How Have You Responded To:

 - These Truths About The Lord?
 - How Are You Responding:
 - In Your Heart & Life Today?
 - Jesus Is The Lamb Of God:
 - Who Is Worthy:
 - To Receive Honor!
 - Your Honor! And Even:
 - All Of Your Honor!
 - From All Your Heart!
 - In All Your Life!
 - You Honor His Glory:
 - By Seeking To Live For:
 - His Glory!
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31 - "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!"
 - You Honor His Greatness:
 - By Seeking First:
 - The Kingdom Of God!
 - In Every Area Of Your Life!
 - Living For The Lord:
 - As The Lord!
 - You Honor His Goodness:

- By Living According To:
 - His Truth & Righteousness:
 - As Found In His Word!

4. Honor The Lord!

- Because - He Is Worthy:

- “To Receive Power, And Riches, And Wisdom, And Strength, And Honor, And Glory, And Blessing!”
- Worthy Is The Lamb!

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