

# *Do You Really Want to Be Like Jesus?*

Sunday AM, March 3, 2024

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**John 8:18-19** I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me. Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

- I. Do you really want to be like Jesus?
  - A. Here He is in John 8 in his fullness as the Son of man and the Son of God.
  - B. He is dealing with a hostile, hateful, resentful, unbelieving bunch of people who profess religion.
  - C. He is trying to help these people; His Father did not send Him there to fight and argue, but to help them to see the truth, and to find forgiveness and cleansing for their sin, and that is what He is doing with every sentence He speaks to them.
  - D. There is a crowd of people watching and listening to the conversation between Him and these who are contentious, mean, rude, and hateful.
    1. And it is worth noticing verse 30:

**John 8:30** As he spake these words, many believed on him.

2. Any honest person looking on and listening can figure out who the bad guys and the good guys are pretty quickly.
      3. God gave men a conscience and unless it is seared and silenced, or the mind is reprobate, he will recognize good and evil when he sees them.
      4. We should always remember this important fact; others are listening and considering, and many will make up their minds about God by what they hear.
    - E. He never loses his focus or his composure toward them.
      1. In spite of their insults, their slanders, and their threatening faces.
    - F. He speaks truth in everything He says to them.
    - G. He does not lower himself to their level and use slander and gossip to try to silence them.
    - H. These were learned, lettered men, who were religious scholars and leaders, yet they did not present any kind of argument based upon Scripture or doctrine.
      1. With every answer they only hurled personal insults and slanders and accusations against Jesus.
      2. They did not reason from the Scriptures and listen as He explained what He was saying; they only spewed resentment and derision toward Him because they despised Him personally.
      3. And what justification did they have for despising and hating Him?
      4. What had He ever done that was unjust or unkind?
- II. They answered Him roughly each time they responded to his words.
  - A. They proclaimed that whatever He said held no authority or truth, and contradicted what He said, saying it was not true:

**John 8:13** The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.

1. Does this ever happen in church?

2. Have you lived long enough to see what happens to people who do this very thing in churches?

B. They mocked Him, and at the same time insulted Him by asking where his Father was?

John 8:19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

1. "We do not hear your Father talking."
2. "We do not see Joseph, or whoever your father was, anywhere around here."
3. "We want some physical proof of what you are saying?"
4. Never mind that God the Father had already given this proof, but they refused to acknowledge it,
- 5.

C. They mocked Him again by insinuating that He was mad and suicidal.

John 8:22 Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come.

1. Have you ever heard this about some other Christian or some preacher who was sincere and zealous for the Lord?

D. They asked Him in derision, "Who art thou?"

John 8:25 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning.

1. This was not spoken with any sincerity of knowing whether He was the Son of God or not, but was more like, "Who do you think you are by talking to us like this and saying these things?"
2. Because pride reigns in the hearts of most people this is very common, and it is how people miss God, as we talked about last week.
3. They refuse to listen for the voice of God in the voice of a man, because they consider themselves more able to find out the truth themselves.
4. But what they are doing most of the time is simply following their own heart, and being a fool.

E. They cast aside his promise of forgiveness and freedom from sin because of who they thought themselves to be; their pedigree; their heritage; their position.

John 8:33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

1. Sinners do not even realize they are in bondage until it drags them to the bottom, or someone representing God points it out to them.
2. Most do not understand that this is still the way religious people react to true Gospel preaching.
3. Most would rather find their security and peace in their position or their pedigree than in confessing and forsaking their sin.
4. That is why all the preaching on positional truth, being one of the elect, the inability of man, and unconditional eternal security based simply on a profession of faith is so popular and well received.
5. And it also explains why preaching that condemns sin to its very roots and exposes it, and demands repentance and a new birth is rejected as "sinless perfection."

- F. Again, they insult Jesus, and his mother by insinuating that He was born of fornication, while they themselves have a clean pedigree.

John 8:41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

1. What do you do when you cannot refute with Scripture and reason but try to discredit the speaker by accusing his mother of sin?
2. When you are in a corner and truth is cutting you deep, just attack and slander his whole family, so that other will know that he has no credibility.

- G. Then they just come right out and accuse Him of being under the control of the devil:

John 8:48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

1. These blind people are looking in the face of Jesus and listening to the very Words of God himself, and believe they are listening to the devil!
2. What hope can there be for such a people as this?
3. When people will cannot, or will not, discern the voice of God from the voice of the devil, there is no where else to go with it except exactly where Jesus went with it here; He spoke truth, not insult or slander.

John 8:44-45 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.

- H. Then they reaffirm their notion that He is letting a devil talk through Him, and again deride Him for his promise of escaping death:

John 8:52-53 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?

- I. Then they prove their complete carnality and lack of any kind of spiritual understanding by stating that Jesus is not old enough to have known Abraham.

John 8:57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

- J. And finally, they take up stones to kill him:

John 8:59 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.

1. This is when the church fires the preacher, or when a good family is run off by the carnal, worldly church members.

### III. What would it be like if all who name the name of Christ would be like Him?

- A. What if no one hurt anyone else with their words?
- B. What if everyone just spoke truth without ill intent or malice, and only with the pure motive of helping someone?
- C. What if everyone responded to the insults and slanders of others with grace and truth?
- D. What if everyone was willing to lay down their life for the truth, to the point of being put to death for it?
- E. It starts with each of us as we sit in church today.
- F. We can make a difference in this world with our few if we will only obey these truths.