

The Gospel of John – John 8 - Part 3

June 26, 2022

It's a wonderful thing that we can read the words of Jesus, the Son of God. And this section of vs. in John 8 that we're looking at today is a powerful and important passage - there are many truths that we need to understand.

John 8:31-36. Jesus is talking about what a true disciple, a true Christian looks like. And Jesus says he's the one who knows the truths of God. And this is truth about God, that He's holy and just, about Jesus, that He's God and man and that He died for our sins, and about man, that he's a sinner, and is enslaved to his sin. Now a person who's saved, who's a Christian, knows the truth, believes the truth, and continues to believe it. His faith isn't a one-time thing or part time thing but is ongoing. Not only that, but a true Christian is set free from his sin - he is not a slave to sin - his sin doesn't control his life, it doesn't dominate his life. Rom. 6

We live in the United States of America, and more than any other country, we have all these freedoms and liberties, and this bill of rights. And as Christians, we must not focus on these physical freedoms, freedoms that relate to what we can physically do - we need to focus on our spiritual freedoms, that we're free from sin and the effects of sin, and that we're free to do what God wants us to do. Gal

John 8:37-47. There is a lot of important truth here about Jesus, about the devil, and about believers and unbelievers. Let me go over some of these things:

1. We read about Jesus, about who He is. And Jesus has talked about this before, but this whole question about who He is, is critical, and must be understood because it relates to His purpose, and to what He does for us.

Jesus says, "*I speak the things which I have seen with My Father.*" Jesus is telling us that God is His heavenly Father, which means He's God's Son, which means He's God. Jesus also says He's been with His Father, in the very presence of His Father, and therefore, the things He says are things the Father told Him, and wants Him to say. Jesus then is speaking the truth, which is totally unlike the devil who always speaks lies.

Jesus then says, "*I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.*" And so here is Jesus, and He is on earth, and He is saying that He was with His Father in heaven, and that He came from being with His Father, that His Father is the One who sent Him to this earth. Then Jesus says, "*Which one of you convicts me of sin?*" By this He was not just saying He was sinless, was perfectly holy, but that they couldn't accuse Him of sin. And being sinless was another evidence of the fact that Jesus was God in the flesh. And since Jesus is perfectly holy, then He only speaks the truth, which leads to the next point.

2. Jesus told them the truth about Himself and salvation. But they didn't believe the truth about Jesus, that He was the Son of God, and the truth about salvation, that He was the Savior. And because they didn't believe the truth, then the truth had no place in them, it wasn't in their heart, in their soul. They believed the devil's lies, and you can't believe the lies of the devil, and then say you believe the truth of God. You can only believe one or the other.

These people didn't understand the truth - it didn't make sense to them. 1 Cor. 1:18-21. They were trying to figure things out in their own fleshly minds, and they couldn't do it. It says they couldn't hear Jesus' word, which means they didn't understand what it meant. And the reason they couldn't understand what it meant was because they were children of the devil, which was a strong thing to say, but the right thing to say. These unbelievers were not children of God but were, in fact, children of the devil.

3. Every person is either a child of the devil or a child of God. He is one or the other. 1 John 3:7-10. If a person is a child of God, then he is not a child of the devil, and if a person is a child of the devil then he is not a child of God. A person who's living on this earth and who's now a child of the devil will either stay a child of the devil, and then go to hell when he dies, or he'll get saved and become a child of God, and then go to heaven when he dies. That is the truth. John 5:24, Col. 1:13-14

The person who's saved believes the truth, and understands the truth, and holds to the truth about Jesus and salvation. He doesn't waver, he doesn't go back and forth, he doesn't believe it one day and not believe it the next day. This is what John 8:31 says. The true disciple, the true believer continues, abides, remains in the truth about God, which means he continues to believe it.

- John 8:44. There's no truth in the devil, and there's no truth in the children of the devil, in those who are not saved, in those who are not believers.

And so Jesus was telling the truth, but these Jewish unbelievers didn't believe the truth, they believed the lies of the devil, who is the father of lies, and the father of liars, and the # 1 liar in the world. And the devil lies about all kinds of things. There's the lie that God doesn't exist, there's the lie of evolution, the lie that God didn't create us. There's the lie about Jesus, that He's not the Savior. There's the lie that you need to do good works to go to heaven, or the lie that there's no heaven, or no hell, or the lie that everybody goes to heaven.

4. Jesus does good deeds, and the devil does evil deeds. Jesus says to these unbelievers, *"You are doing the deeds of your father."* Jesus was saying that these Jewish unbelievers were children of the devil, that the devil was their father. Now 1 Jn. 3:8 says, *"The one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning."* The devil then is a sinner, and all unbelievers are sinners, and do sinful and evil things.

John 10:10 – *"The thief comes to steal, kill, destroy."* The devil is a killer, a murderer. Referring to the devil, Jn. 8 says, *"He was a murderer from the beginning."* This doesn't mean the devil is completely responsible for every murder, but he definitely tempts people to murder, and is strongly influencing those who are murderers, who are killers. 2 Tim. 2:26 When it comes to murders and wars, we have to understand that the devil has a huge hand in what is now taking place, and is very pleased with all the killings that are taking place. - Now twice in this passage, Jesus confronts these sinful Jews for they're seeking to kill Him, and He's the Son of God, and He's perfectly holy, He hasn't done anything wrong.

And here's Jesus, and He does all these good deeds, and He never does one evil deed. Jesus wants to give life to people, He wants people to have an eternal life filled with love, joy, and peace, and everything else that's good and right, which is totally unlike the devil, who wants to steal, kill, and destroy.

And so vs. 37-47 talk about who Jesus is, that He speaks the truth, and about the devil, who's a murderer and a liar, and a father of liars, and of murderers too. As I said, people are either children of the devil or children of God. And one of our main purposes is to share the gospel with people who are children of the devil, and tell them how they can become children of God. 2 Tim. 2:24-26

John 8:48-52. So Jesus shared all this good truth, and how do these evil Jews answer Him? They say He's a Samaritan, that He's not a true Jew, that He's a half breed. And most Jews hated Samaritans and calling Jesus a Samaritan was calling him a dirty name. And then they say that Jesus has a demon, which means they're saying that He is of the devil and is working for the devil. But just the opposite was true, for these evil Jews were children of the devil, but Jesus was and is the very Son of God.

How then does Jesus answer them? He says clearly and strongly, *"I do not have a demon."* Jesus goes on to say, *"I honor My Father"*, which was Jesus' ultimate purpose. Jesus wanted to honor His Father, He wanted to please and glorify Him. By saying, *"I honor My Father,"* Jesus was saying that He was not honoring the devil, like they were doing. Then Jesus tells them that they don't honor Him, and they should honor Him, for He is the Son of God. In effect, Jesus was saying that if they didn't honor Him, then they weren't honoring God. For he who honors the Son honors the Father.

And so Jesus wants to honor and glorify His Father, and the Father wants to honor and glorify His Son. And the Father's primary and ultimate purpose was that His Son would be glorified, and in fact, would receive great and everlasting glory. Phil. 1:9-11, Rev. 4-5, 7. And the Father was just and holy, and therefore He judged, He made judgments, He made righteous decisions. And of course, the Father worked through the Son. John 5, Acts 17. Jesus is honest with these Jews, and boldly tells them the truth, that if they keep His word, if they believe and obey Him, then they won't see death, meaning they won't stay spiritually dead, but be born again, and receive eternal life, that is, live forever with God. Jn. 5:24

John 8:52-53. These sinful Jews did not like what Jesus said and did not believe what He said. They believe He's saying that He will keep living, that He'll defeat physical death, and this is true, but it's also true that He would defeat spiritual death. And these Jews also thought Jesus was saying that He was God, and was greater than Abraham, who had already died. But Jesus was God, and He was greater than Abraham.

John 8:54-59. Jesus then goes on to tell them many more important things:

1. He says that His Father, that God Himself is glorifying Him, which makes it impossible for Jesus to have a demon. He was saying that God was leading Him and glorifying Him, and not the devil or any demons.
2. Jesus knew these Jews were saying that God was their God, that He was their Father, but He was not their God, for the devil was their father. And He wanted them to know that.
3. Jesus said He knew God, that He had a relationship with Him, and He did. And He said that He kept His Father's word, that He obeyed Him, and He did.
4. Jesus said these Jews didn't know God and they didn't. That means they didn't keep God's word, and therefore wouldn't be saved, they'd see death, and this means physical death and spiritual death, which means eternal death, being forever separated from God.
5. Jesus, not at all afraid of these Jews, calls them liars, and they are.
6. Now all Jews would call Abraham their father, but Jesus tells them that He was alive before Abraham, which means that He was and is God, and that He actually created Abraham.
7. And so now the Jews try to kill Jesus, for He said He was God. But they failed, at that time anyway, for His time to die had not yet come. But it would, and it would be in the near future.

Indeed, this gospel of John is filled with wonderful, important, life-changing truths for us. Might God help us to understand it, believe it, and apply it to our lives.