

## So They Said to Him, Who are You?

John 8:21-30 <sup>21</sup> So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." <sup>22</sup> So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" <sup>23</sup> He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup> I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." <sup>25</sup> So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. <sup>26</sup> I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." <sup>27</sup> They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. <sup>28</sup> So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. <sup>29</sup> And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." <sup>30</sup> As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

### ❖ Introduction

- Quick and Easy today
- 4 main points
  - 1) The Hearers Lack understanding and belief
  - 2) Jesus Explains to them Who He is
  - 3) Jesus Warns them of the consequences of their unbelief
  - 4) Jesus shows them a way of escape
- **These verses are timeless...**
  - They apply even for today...
  - Although we do not live in that time and in that context...
  - Everyone has their opinion on who Jesus is...
  - But Opinions are a dime a dozen...
  - Knowing who He truly is of great value...

### ❖ Recap

- **Jesus said, I Am the Light of the World**
  - **Feast of Tabernacles**
  - The Importance of Understanding Jesus as Light
    - There are many in darkness and they do not know it
  - An Outrageous Statement
    - The hearers heard Him claiming to be the Messiah
    - They heard Him saying He was God
  - Why we need His light.
    - Because of the deep spiritual Darkness
  - Whoever Follows me
    - Soldier
    - Slave
    - Person listening to wise counsel
    - Follower of the rules
    - Student following the teaching of the master
  - Will Have the Light of the World
    - Will possess it
  - Results of Having the Light
    - Reveals Spiritual Truth

- Frees people from the darkness
- Causes them to Grow
- Have the Ability to Reflect the light
- The Light is Repulsive to those in darkness
- Those that believe will overcome the darkness and walk in light
- **Instead of seeing Jesus as He is,**
  - The Leaders wanted to just argue semantics about their laws
  - They spent more time trying to trick Jesus in His Words, than hearing what He said...
- **So it is no surprise that they finally ask a most crucial question...**
  - Although... I do not know what their motives were behind the question...
  - In the middle of this set of verses...

## ❖ A Crucial Question (vs 25)

- **Who are you?**
  - <sup>25</sup>So they said to him, “Who are you?”
- Right after Jesus says to them.... You **will die in your sins unless you believe that I Am**
  - They ask Him, then who are you...
  - Who are you that I should believe in you...
  - And that is not a bad question... It is better than just arguing...
  - And you will see that this question will lead to many believing...
- **Who is Jesus**
  - This is your question today...
  - **If you have never followed Jesus...**
    - I am using that word follow to describe the Christian...
    - A person who follows is truly a believer...
    - The Believer that gets the promise of eternal life lives a life of following their Master...
    - It is that simple...
    - If you do not purposely follow in the footsteps of your Master then you are not truly a disciple
    - Not perfectly by any means... But you are striving...
  - **Maybe You say... I do not even know what His footsteps are...**
    - Then this question is very crucial to you....
  - **To the unbeliever...**
    - Asking this question honestly with the hopes of discovering the truth... is of utmost importance...
    - If you can come to know Who He is... it will turn your world around.... This will free you from a bondage you may not even know you have...
    - Most importantly... it will not end in your “dying in your sins....”
    - Because that is the end result...
    - That does not have to happen to you
    - We will look into what that means
  - **For the Follower of Jesus...**
    - You should never stop asking this question...
      - ◆ Who are you Jesus...
      - ◆ The more you understand it, the more you are able to reflect it
    - Understanding Who He is, helps you help others know who He is...
    - Because the ultimate goal here... is that we keep as many people as possible...
    - From dying in their sins...

## ❖ 1) The Hearers lack understanding and belief

### ➤ They do not know why He came

- <sup>22</sup> So the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’”
- They do not see that His ultimate goal is to Die for Sins...
- He is to be a sacrifice....
- And this is why they struggled so much with Him as Messiah...
- They expected Messiah to be a little bit different...
- To be just like them...
- To set up an earthly kingdom...
- They did not see Him coming to die....

### ➤ They do not know who He is

- <sup>25</sup> So they said to him, “Who are you?”
  - So we see here their crucial question being asked....
  - Which leads to their main problem

### ➤ They do not know God

- <sup>27</sup> They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.
- They were supposed to know the Father... their whole religion was based off Jesus’ Father
- Yet they did not know Him... They did not understand who Jesus was talking about...
- Previously Jesus had said...
  - John 8:19 <sup>19</sup> They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

### ➤ These Guys Just do not have a clue... do they?

### ➤ How Does this parallel you today? Or our Culture

- There are a million ideas of who Jesus is.... And only one is right... (I am exaggerating a bit)
- People do not understand His purpose for Coming...
- Who He is
- They do not know His Father...
- They do not understand the relationship b/w the two...
- Many in the church...
  - In the same way that the Church leaders of that time did not understand...
  - Many church goers today have totally missed the mark on who Jesus is...
- **This is Why...**
  - We have churches full of people that claim to know Jesus, but do not serve Him
    - ◆ They serve self...
    - ◆ They serve what self wants...
    - ◆ They lack an understanding of the cost of being a follower of Jesus...
    - ◆ They just think they can say a prayer, or go through a membership class...
    - ◆ And as long as the church recognizes me as saved... then I am saved...
    - ◆ That is dangerous

### ➤ Who is Jesus....

- We have been studying this for almost a year and a half.... Looking at who Jesus is...

## ❖ 2) Jesus Explains to them who He is

### ➤ They Ask... and Jesus Answers

- <sup>25b</sup> ... Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning.
- What Had He been telling them from the beginning?
- **So far...**
  - John the Baptist declared Him to be the Lamb of God

- Jesus showed Himself to be a Miracles worker by turning the water into wine
- He turned over tables in the temple... showing His authority
- Telling them He is the Son of the Father
- Told them they could destroy this temple and He would raise it up in three days..
  - ◆ Speaking of His body
- Told them He is the Son of the Father that they must believe in...
- That HE could give them eternal Life
- Tells the woman at the well that He is Everlasting Water....
  - ◆ She goes and tells a multitude
- Shown Himself to be someone who could Heal
  - ◆ Even when the person was far off
  - ◆ Even when the person had been lame for 38 years
- He told them He is over the Sabbath day
- Tells them of His authority and equality with God the Father
- Showed them that He could make food at His will
- Tells them that HE is the Bread of Life
- Tells them that He is the Light of the World....
- **Essentially He is telling them that He is God, who has come into the world to bring salvation**
  - To All who believe....
- **I AM**
  - He uses these I AM Statements...
  - 7 throughout the book... some we have not gotten to yet...
  - In the greek it sounds like... Ego Eimi...
    - ◆ That is translated.... I I AM
    - ◆ This is a direct correlation to the name of God in the Exodus...
    - ◆ Yahweh... means I AM
    - ◆ And God tells Moses to tell them when they ask...
    - ◆ That I AM that I AM sent him...
  - And here Jesus has come, and declares Himself as I AM...
    - ◆ And they hear it... and this is why they want to kill Him....
- **It is not that He Had not told them who He was.... I think it was clear...**
  - It was that they failed to believe what they were seeing...
  - That would have taken humility...
- **So, He continues His explanation of who He is...**
- **He has come to die**
  - <sup>21</sup>So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come."
  - **Previously Jesus Had said:**
    - John 7:33 <sup>33</sup>Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little longer, and then I am going to him who sent me.
  - **Jesus is Pointing toward His Death:**
    - Without this, there would be no eternal life
    - The Book of John starts out like this... And Jesus keeps repeating it....
    - IT MUST BE IMPORTANT>>>>> RIGHT.... For us today as well...
    - John the Baptist declared Jesus to be the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world...
- **He has come down from Heaven**

- <sup>23</sup> He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

- **He has come from Heaven**

- Knowing that Jesus has come down from God,
- from on High should be transforming to the hearer

- **One Who Speaks with the Authority of God**

- <sup>26</sup> I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.”

- 28b... and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

- **He has the Authority of God**

- This should have made an impact on them...
- And should you as well...

- **God is with Him**

- <sup>29</sup> And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”

- **Wanted to let them know these things about the Father...**

- Why?
- Because they claimed to know the Father...
- And HE was appealing to them and their professed belief in the Father...
- Saying... the God you say you believe is the God that sent me... If you know Him, you should know me...
- You trust Him, you should trust me...

- **Always does what is pleasing...**

- **Why is this so important to you today?**

- Knowing He has come to die...
- Knowing He has come down from heaven
- Knowing He speaks with the authority of God
- Knowing the Father is with Him,...?

- ❖ **3) Jesus warns them of the consequences of their unbelief**

- <sup>21</sup> So he said to them again, “I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. **Where I am going, you cannot come.**”

- <sup>24</sup> I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”

- This is Terrible....

- Die in your Sins....

- Without a Sacrifice

- Their sacrificial system taught them that sin must be paid for...

- They Enter the Afterlife with no way of paying for their sins....

- They die in them...

- **Stark Contrast from the Promise made to His Followers**

- Promised Eternal Life...

- Promised to have their sins removed...

- Final promise:

- Revelation 21:4 <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

- **How Should You Respond to this Warning?**

❖ **4) He Shows them how to escape**

- <sup>28</sup> So Jesus said to them, “When you have **lifted up the Son of Man**, then you will know that I am he,
- <sup>24</sup> I told you that you would die in your sins, for **unless you believe that I am he** you will die in your sins.”
- **The Way Is Made For You!**
- **Through the Cross**
  - Lifted up the son of man
- **By Believing**
  - Unless you believe that I Am

❖ **Many Believe**

- <sup>30</sup> As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

❖ Will many believe today?