

We Don't Have to Experience Death

❖ Intro

➤ Recap of John 8

- **1) The Woman Caught in Adultery**
 - We see the relentless Mercy of Jesus
- **2) Jesus is the Light of the World**
 - What an Outrageous statement
 - ◆ Claiming to be Messiah
 - ◆ Claiming to be God
 - Man Needs this Light
 - This Light Brings us Life
 - ◆ ¹²“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
- **3) So They Said to Him Who Are You**
 - 1) The Hearers Lack understanding and belief
 - 2) Jesus Explains to them Who He is
 - ◆ He has come to die
 - 3) Jesus Warns them of the consequences of their unbelief
 - ◆ They Would Die in their Sins
 - 4) Jesus shows them a way of escape
- **4) and 5) Are You a True Disciple**
 - 1) We are Enslaved
 - 2) Not All Who Believe are True Disciples
 - 3) Continuing in the Word of Jesus Means You Are a True Disciple
 - 4) Continuing Leads to knowing the Truth
 - 5) Knowing the Truth Leads to Freedom
 - 6) Jesus is Our Freedom

➤ A lot Going on in these verses

- **These Verses are a continuation of His Statement**
 - If You Abide in my Word, you are truly my disciple
 - He was saying that They were slaves to sin
 - And that if the Son set them free, they would be free indeed...

➤ Remember the Backdrop

- He is speaking to those Jews that Believed in Him...
- This makes these verses stand out all the more
 - And I believe there was probably a mixture of people in this group...
 - Some that would truly abide... and others that are highlighted in this group
- But the fact that He is speaking to those that believed Him when He was saying
 - I am the light of the World... Makes this narrative very Compelling

John 8:37-59 ³⁷ I know that you are **offspring of Abraham**; yet you **seek to kill** me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” ³⁹ They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. ⁴¹ You are doing the works **your father** did.” They said to him, **“We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.”** ⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but

he sent me. ⁴³ Why do you **not understand** what I say? It is because you cannot **bear to hear** my word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. **He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him.** When he lies, he speaks **out of his own character**, for he is a liar and the **father of lies.** ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God." ⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a **Samaritan** and have a **demon**?" ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² The Jews said to him, "Now we **know that you have a demon!** Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'" ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! **Who do you make yourself out to be?"** ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, **of whom you say, 'He is our God.'**" ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹ So they **picked up stones to throw at him**, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

❖ 1) Jesus Has Come Directly From the Father of All Creation

- ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."
- ⁴⁰... a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God.
- ⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.
- ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word.
- Why Does He Say This, and What Does this Mean for us?
 - He Can Be Trusted

❖ 2) Jesus is not Trying to Glorify Himself, He is Just coming to tell the truth

- He is just going around telling people the truth
 - He is telling them who He is...
 - He is not bragging about His power
 - Or bragging about who He is...
 - Most of the time He is doing things behind the scenes
- **He is allowing the Father to glorify Him... As He tells the Truth**
 - Look at what He says...
 - ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father
 - ⁴⁰... a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God.
 - ⁴²... I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.
 - ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?
 - ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge.
 - **Who do you make yourself out to be?"** ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, **of whom you say, 'He is our God.'**"
- **What a Great Lesson for us...**
 - We should live like this...

➤ **Also What A Great look into the heart of the Character of Jesus...**

- He is Humble...

❖ **3) They Tried to Justify Themselves**

➤ **They Wrongly Justified themselves in 3 ways**

▪ **1) Morally**

- They had previously said they were a slave to no one...
 - ◆ Jesus tells them that whoever commits sin they are a slave to sin

▪ **2) By Ethnicity**

- ³⁹They answered him, "Abraham is our father."
- Jesus Debunks their Answer by pointing to their Actions
 - ◆ Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.

▪ **3) Religiously**

- They said to him, "**We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.**"
- **Jesus Responds to their Religious Justification by saying:**
 - ◆ ⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me,
 - ◆ ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires.
 - ◆ ⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God.
- **The Proof their religion was vain was because:**
 - ◆ They did not love Jesus
 - ◆ Their Will was to do the will of the devil
 - ◆ They had not heard the Words of God

➤ **Don't Try to Justify Yourself When God's Word comes to you**

- When you hear God's Word preached, or Read it, or hear it explained...
- Do not look at the messenger... Listen to the message...
- Listen to the Words of God...
- They are Just telling you the truth...
- God's Word is just revealing to you your need for Him....
- Hear Him and do not delay... Do not Justify yourself...

➤ **Often We say...**

- I grew up in a Christian Home
- Or my grandparents were godly
- Or I was in church...
- Or I walked an Isle and said a prayer and was baptized

➤ **These Jewish People had more reason to brag**

- They were born into a nation that was called out by God to Be his chosen people
- They were given His laws and ways and grew up in them...
- They had been circumcised and were following the rules...
- Yet their knowledge of God was off... And they were aligned with Satan...

❖ **4) Our Actions Prove Our Heritage**

➤ **Look at How They Acted...**

- ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."
- ³⁹...."If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me
- ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires.

- ⁴⁷...The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

➤ **James Tell us:**

- James 2:14-23 ¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.

➤ **If We Are Of God, We Will Act Like It**

❖ **5) We Don’t Hear Because We Can’t Bear to Hear What is Being Said**

- EXAMPLE: Talking about preparation for death
 - When u talk about what u need to do incase one of u dies...
 - Or something happens to ur Children...
- ⁴³ Why do you **not understand** what I say? It is because you cannot **bear to hear** my word. ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. **He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him.** When he lies, he speaks **out of his own character**, for he is a liar and the **father of lies.** ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.
- Those That Are Not Of God...
 - Can not handle what God has to say...
 - They can not bear it..
 - You can not carry those words around
 - Just like to heavy a load will break the donkey’s back...

❖ **6) God’s Children Hear His Words**

- ⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God.

❖ **7) Just Because You Call God Your God, Doesn’t Mean You Know Him**

- ⁵⁴ It is my Father who glorifies me, **of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’**

❖ **8) Keeping His Word Means We Will Never See Death**

- **The Most Glorious Part of These Verses for the Man Lost in His Sins...**
 - **Remember back when he said...**
 - John 8:24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”
- ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵² The Jews said to him, “Now we **know that you have a demon!** Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘if anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! **Who do you make yourself out to be?”**
- **They Get Made Here...**
 - They start calling Him names...
 - Isn’t that what We do when we don’t know what else to do in an argument?
- **Keeping His Word Means...**

- You Will not See Death... And You Will Not Taste Death
- You Will Be living here....
- This body will wear out in one way or another and stop working...
- And You will shed this body like a Hot Heavy Jacket and continue on in your life
- And Walk right into the presence of God...
- **You Will Not See Death, And You will Not Taste it...**
- **The Reason is... That His Word.... It is the Gospel...**
 - And it is the gospel that has the power to Save all who believe...
 - In His Word He Provides a Payment for our sins...
 - In His Word He takes on the wrath of God for our sins...
 - In His Word He makes us Right With God
 - And In His Word, He Grants to us eternal Life...

❖ 9) Their Actions Proved They Were Not Abiding...

- Lets look closely at this....
- **Remember what Jesus said to them...**
 - If you abide in my word you are truly my disciple...
 - Look closely at how many of these Jewish people that believed in Him were responding to Jesus...
 - NOTE: It probably was not every single person there that was acting like this...
 - Usually within a crowd like this, there would be true believers, and false believers...
- **They Said:**
 - ³⁷ yet you **seek to kill me** because my word finds no place in you.
 - ⁴³ Why do you **not understand** what I say? It is because you cannot **bear to hear** my word.
 - ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.
 - ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?
 - ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² The Jews said to him, "Now we **know that you have a demon!**
 - **Who do you make yourself out to be?"**
 - ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?"
- **They Were Not Abiding in His Word...**
 - His Words found no place in them
 - They did not understand Him
 - They could not bear what He has to say
 - He tells the truth, but they do not believe Him
 - They said He had a Demon when He told them He could keep them from seeing Death
 - They question who He is
 - They do not understand His Eternal Existence...
- **2 Main Problems in their Understanding...**
 - **1) They did not understand their need for Jesus to be their Sacrifice...**
 - This is why they did not understand that keeping His Word keeps them from death
 - It would be His Word of the Gospel that We would believe on that would save us from Sin...
 - They did not understand this...
 - **2) They also failed to see Jesus as God in human form...**
 - This blew their mind....
 - And Jesus says to them...

❖ 10) Jesus is the Great I Am

- The Whole Narrative Hinges on this Statement...

- None of it matters if this is not true...
- ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”
 - Jesus has Just called Himself God.... And done so in the most obvious of ways....
 - And it is the most obvious declaration of Himself as God so far in the gospel of John
 - Look back to Exodus
- Exodus 3:7-15 ⁷ Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” ¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹² He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” ¹³ Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.
- **They Understood what He was saying....**
 - That is why they try to Kill Him
- **Jesus Being the I AM.... Reinforces John 1**
 - In the beginning was the word....
- **Jesus being God gives great authority to His words...**
 - And it gives great power to His actions
- **Jesus Can Do what He says He can do because of who he is!**

❖ 11) Unholy tries to kill Holy

- ⁵⁹ So they **picked up stones to throw at him**, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.
- **Jesus had been telling them the whole time that they were trying to kill Him...**
 - At one point earlier they acted like they were not trying to do this...
- **Here their response is to Kill Him...**
 - They do this because they believe He is speaking blasphemy...
 - They believe He is calling Himself God...
 - And that is to be punished by death...
- They are Also trying to Kill Him...
 - Because His Words have told them they were wrong....

❖ Invitation....

- Let us not run from, or try to kill
- The Words that God is giving to us...
- We may not physically kill something or someone...
- But when we hide them and push them away and try to snuff them out...
- We are doing the same thing...