

John 8

Stooping Down to Make Us Great

I. Stooping Down to Make Us Great

- ... Everyone went to his own house.

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

- Jesus leaves the Temple to be with Father
- Prepares for the next morning...

**If spending *time* with the Father was not optional to Jesus...
How important is it that we spend time with God?**

- Jesus frequently retreated quietly in order to later **advance in strength**

Luke 5:16 [Jesus]... often withdrew [slip away] into the wilderness [deserted place] and prayed.

Luke 6:12 ... [Jesus] went out to the mountain to pray, and continued **all night in prayer** to God. [God gave list of 12]

Matthew 14:23 ...when [Jesus] had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by **Himself to pray**. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

Mark 1:35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and **there He prayed**.

- We need to find our quiet place to be alone with God

Psalms 27:5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; **In the secret place** of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

We spend time with the Father to gain wisdom and strength

Job 12:13 "With Him are wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding.

- **Spirit supplies all we need...for whatever is coming** [Isaiah 11:2]

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Counsel
4. Might
5. Knowledge
6. Fear of the Lord to demolish fear of man

- We never know what a day may bring...Jesus in humanity did not know...

Every action taken, every word spoken, every nuance regarding the following day will be perfectly choreographed by God...because Jesus spent time with the Father and was ready

2 Now early in the morning [Jesus] came again into the temple, and **all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.**

- **Early in morning Jesus walks back to the Temple**

1. All the people gather to Him: Hungry for His Word
2. He sat down and taught the people...

Jesus is prepared to teach because He has already spent time with the Father

- People hanging on every Word...

**Interrupted by disturbance/commotion;
Voices getting louder moving toward Him in Temple**

3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery.

Beauty of the Word interrupted by an ugly scene
Religious leaders dragging an uncovered woman toward Jesus...

3b...And when they had set her in the midst

- **Set her in the midst:** Between Jesus and His students [but lessons not over]

4 ...they said to Him, "**Teacher**, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

- **This woman was caught?** Unintentionally confess *this thing is a set up*
- **How was she caught in adultery?**
 1. Had they been told about her?
 2. Had they been spying on her?
 3. Had they been with her?
- **NOTE:** The man not brought/mentioned
- **Caught in the very act?** Dragged out of bed
 1. **Obvious:** Religious leaders have been preying
 2. **Sin Sniffers:** Tracked down their terrified prize to use for their purpose

Look what we caught...
Frightened creature dropped at Jesus feet

- Naked/disheveled/embarrassed...rightfully fearful

Guilty of a grievous sin and being dragged into the Temple by Religious Leaders

- **Leaders continue speaking to Jesus...**

5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But

what do You say?"

Leviticus 20:10 'The man who commits adultery with another man's wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.'

- They were correct with regard cold-hard to the "letter of the law"
- **God said this sin is deserving of death:** The person is...
 1. Breaking their vow to God: Against you alone I sinned [David]. Ultimately true but also...
 2. Breaking their wedding vows to spouse/ betraying their trust...

Deserving of death? God knows how much pain is caused by adultery/betrayal

With the exception of the death of a child, there is *no marital event more painful than the discovery of a partner's infidelity*. The disorienting aftereffects of such a betrayal resemble the psychotic disorientation and confusion that we see in victims of earthquakes or other such natural disasters. [B. Bass Ph.D.]

- Law rightly says she is deserving of death
- Even if she escapes death the future consequences will still be severe...
 1. Knows her children will find out and may **disown her**
 2. Knows her husband will find out and will probably **divorce her**
 3. Knows her neighbors will find out and probably **shun her**
- Religious leader's words are to her like being drenched with a bucket of cold water...
- Consequences she deliberately chose to forget last night now *staring her in the eyes*

The Law says this woman should be stoned to death...what do you say?

6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him.

- **Trying to Trap Jesus...On the horns of a dilemma**

They set a trap for Jesus. If Jesus said, "Let her go," then He would seem to break the Law of Moses. If He said, "Execute her for the crime of adultery," then Jesus would seem harsh and perhaps cruel. Also, He would break Roman law, because the Romans had taken the right of official execution for religious offenses away from the Jews. [Guzik]

They really did not want to stone the woman they wanted to stone Him [JV McGee]

- **Jesus is prepared for this trap** after spending time with the Father

Avoiding traps was just part of Jesus daily life

- Should we pay taxes? Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.

**The wicked continually set traps for the righteous
...Try to trip us up...make us look foolish...invalidate our testimony**

Psalms 38:12 Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; Those who seek my hurt

speak of destruction, And plan deception all the day long.

Psalms 64:5 They encourage themselves in an evil matter; They talk of laying snares secret

Psalms 140:5 The proud have hidden a snare for me, and cords; They have spread a net by the wayside; They have set traps for me. Selah

Psalms 141:9 Keep me from the snares they have laid for me, And from the traps of the workers of iniquity.

- **Waiting for what He would say... in order to accuse Him**

Jesus is prepared for this trap because He already spent time with the Father

The law says stone her...what do You say?

6b...But Jesus **stooped down** and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though *He did not hear*.

- **Jesus ignores them!**

1. Stoops down beside this sinner/eye-level with the woman
2. Writes what in the dust with His finger?

Did Jesus write down the Law/Penalty of an adulterer with His finger? Surely put to death

Jeremiah 17:13 O Lord, the hope of Israel, All who forsake You shall be ashamed. "Those who depart from Me Shall be written in the earth, Because they have forsaken the Lord, The fountain of living waters."

If either, the woman would now be **convicted**. Uh-oh
Self-righteous more **eager for the kill**. Let's go

- **Jesus ignores their plea for Him to answer:** Acts as if He did not even hear

James 4:6 "God resists the proud, But **gives grace to the humble**."

7 So when they **continued asking Him...**

- **"C'mon...What do you say should be done to her?"**

7b...He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."

- Jesus slowly stands and speaks with all authority in heaven and earth
- Anyone here who is without sin among you...**throw the first stone**

Self-righteous begin to look for rocks but are *stopped in their tracks* as they see what Jesus begins to do...

8 And again [Jesus] stooped down and wrote on the ground.

- Next to the law of the adulterer...Jesus begins to write other laws...and other names

- People watching begin to murmur what Jesus is writing as others listen...

9 Then **those who heard it**, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last.

- Those who heard it? Those who heard what?
- Those that were reading aloud what Jesus wrote regarding the sins of the Pharisees

Psalm 90:8 [Moses] You have **set our iniquities before You**, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.

- **Convicted by their conscience**

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but **all things are naked and open to the eyes** of Him to whom we must give account.

Now who's naked and ashamed? We all are.

- **Jesus starts with the oldest and goes down the list...**

1. Rabbi so and so: Trip business you took to Corinth
2. Pharisee so and so: Rendezvous with those Ephesian girls
3. Sadducee so and so: Whatever done in Decapolis stays in Decapolis

- If you even look on a woman with lust you are committing Adultery

Begin to leave one by one as their own sins are being called out

"The continuous tense in this last verb gives the thought of something like a procession. They kept on going out." [Morris]

9b...And Jesus was left alone, and the woman **standing** in the midst.

Pharisees finally gone and their hypocritical gawking now ceased.
Jesus gazing at her and seeing what He created her to be...what she could be

- First time Jesus stooped down to reveal sin: Old Covenant of the Law
- Second time He stoops down to forgive sin: New Testament of Grace

God looked down then stooped down. Became a man that died on cross for our sins
Jesus is stooping v10...but the woman is *now standing*

- It is God who stoops to make us who we were meant to be...

Psalm 18:35 NKJV You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great.

Psalm 18:35 NLT You have given me your shield of victory. Your right hand supports me; your help has made me great.

Psalm 18:35 NCV You protect me with your saving shield. You support me with your right hand. **You have stooped to make me great.**

- Woman is standing because Jesus is stooping
- We stand because Jesus stooped; i.e. Took our sins on cross

Posture of the Lord and Woman: Jesus is still stooping as the woman now standing

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman...

Jesus stands up. No one is around but Him and her

10b... [Jesus] said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

- **Where'd they go? Has no one condemned you?**

11 She said, "**No one, Lord.**" And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

**Jesus meets the requirement of being a judge; i.e. sinlessness.
He gives her a pardon w/condition...go sin no more.**

The woman is guilty of sin, and according to the law of Moses an adulteress was to be put to death. Is Jesus reversing the Mosaic Law? No. He is placing His cross between the woman and her sin. [JV McGee]

- Jesus loved while she was sinning against Him. Against you alone have I sinned

Romans 5:8 ...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- Cross has not happened yet? In God's economy it had!

Revelation 13:8 [Jesus is...] the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

God had this ladies sin and ours in mind before the foundation of the world

- **Go and sin no more!**

1. How do we know she was repentant? We don't but Jesus did
2. He would not have forgiven her unless she was repentant

**She saw grace in His eyes when he stooped down...and she melted
Q. What did His eyes tell her?**

- **A. Hope if the right choice was made:** There and then in the dirt...

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool"

- **Reason together:** I'm a sinner. You are a Savior. I want that Living Water

- **A.** Kindness of God to those who don't deserve it...

Romans 2:4 [NASB] ...the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

- Kindness of God revealed in condescending to his creation...stooping down
- **Long road ahead, beginning with a long walk home**
 1. Lots of crying
 2. Asking of forgiveness
 3. Rebuilding of trust

She would continually lean into the Big God who stooped down to make her great
And trust a God that works all things together for good

II. The Light of the World

12 Then Jesus spoke to **them again**, saying, "**I am the light of the world.**"

- **Physical Light:**
 1. What is it? Made of Particles or Waves?
 2. What does it do? Helps us to see and exposes darkness
- **Spiritual Light:**
 1. Helps us to see where we are going; what's up ahead
 2. **Exposes sin:** Pharisees still running

Jesus said "I AM the Light" I AM self-existent Light

Revelation 21:23 [New Jerusalem] ... had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. **The Lamb is its light.**

- Light emanating/originating *from Him* not *on Him*
 1. Jesus light came from within at the Transfiguration
 2. God said "Let there be light" and there was light before sun, moon, stars

Jesus was His own work light during creation. Anglerfish

- **2nd of Seven "I AM" statements in John**
 1. I AM the Bread of Life
 2. I Am the Light of the World

- **"The" Light the entire World**

12b...He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

**First...If anyone thirst let him come to me and drink.
Now...If anyone is in darkness let them come into the Light of Life**

John 1:4 In [Jesus] was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

After Jesus ascended the expectation is that we take over as Light of the World

- Some changes need to be made...

Ephesians 5:7 [Stop doing what the world does]... 8 **For you were once darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)

- **High calling:** Reflect the Light of Jesus to a dying sin-sick world:

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light **so shine before men**, that they may see **your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

- **Q.** How do we shine practically?
- **A.** By doing Good works [above]

Ephesians 2:10 ... [Saved by grace] created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

We know we are not save by good works but should be the ones doing the most good works
Not for our Salvation...but for the Salvation of others. Shine His Light...

- **How do we shine:** Offer our bodies as a Living Sacrifice Rom 12:1
- **How? Stop complaining**

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you **shine as lights in the world...**

- **How do we shine:**
 1. **Stop** complaining
 2. **Start** witnessing...

Daniel 12:3 Those who are wise **shall shine Like the brightness** of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness...**Like the stars forever and ever.**

- **Keep Jesus in sight** and you won't walk in darkness and fall on your face

John 11:9b If anyone walks in the day, **he does not stumble**, because **he sees the light** of this world.

If we keep close to the Light we will walk in the Light

- **God's Word is Light**

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

SUMMARY The Light of the World

III. Jesus Defends His Self-Witness

13 The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; **Your witness is not true.**"

Jesus said "I am the Light of the World...Follow Me and have the Light of Life"

- Darkness hates the Light/Truth **immediately recoils...**
- Jewish Law requires the witness of 2-3 to establish a fact

You are the only One who says this about yourself. Not sufficient

14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My **witness is true**, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going.

- I need no one else to agree with Me for what I say to be True
 1. **I know where I came from:** Heaven
 2. **I know where I'm going:** Heaven

15 You judge **according to the flesh**; I judge no one.

John 7:24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with **righteous judgment.**"

- You look outward appearance and **judge falsely**
- God looks at the heart and **judges perfectly**

1 Samuel 16:7 [Samuel choosing a King] "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the **Lord looks at the heart.**"

Ever been misunderstood?

- "Calvary guy" for 20 years family found Calvary Centralia
- Calvary in Centralia at that time fell apart because wrong guy for job
- Best 2nd choice in town was Baptist; prayed for real Calvary over 10 years
- **After becoming Pastor of CCY:** Chatter from other churches...
 1. "Nobody even knows where this guys from". Nobody asked
 2. Suspected of being a Calvinist because of Baptist attendance
 3. Not one of the "inner circle"
 4. **Retreat 5 years ago:**
 - Studied hard. Prayed hard. Nervous. Blew it. Mentioned Chuck's death
 - Next Pastor implies somebody should have prayed more
 - Implies it was pathetic to "invoke" the name of Chuck Smith
 - Hurtful/surprising/discouraging

Cold shoulder for 3-4 years for not being a Calvary guy yet over 30+ years, Now Jesus guy

- **Nobody likes being misunderstood:** If you don't really know...Just ask.

What do we do when we are misunderstood?

- **First, Realize we are just as guilty of judging others**

Matthew 7:1 "Judge not...i.e. Don't make assumptions about others you do not know

1. Met two ladies from another church at Hospital
2. Visit a Prince from Africa now sick
3. Lady claimed to be Christian but lady reading Evolution book
4. Owner of Creation Museum seeking to refute newest claims

- **When misunderstood...**

1. First, realize we are guilty of the getting people wrong [unlike Jesus]
2. Second, we like Jesus are to **seek honor from God not men...**

1 Corinthians 4:3 ...with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. 4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but **He who judges me is the Lord.**

We seek to please God because it is only God who judges rightly
Well done good and faithful servant enter in to the joy of your Lord

- **We don't need to seek approval of sinful imperfect flawed men**

John 2:24 ...Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because **He knew all men**, 25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for **He knew what was in man.**

God sees the heart...that what we need to know

1 Samuel 16:7b ...the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the **Lord looks at the heart.**

- **Jesus sought the honor of Father...Pharisees sought the praise of men**

John 5:44 [You] receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

- **Loved the praise of other men:** Miserable Life

John 12:43 ... [Religious Leaders] **loved the praise of men** more than the praise of God.

- You judge according to the flesh...

15b ...I judge no one.

- **1st coming:** Not to judge **but to save:**

John 3:16 ... God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him **might be saved.**

- Jesus came to save sinners...James and John wanted to call down fire

John 9:56 ...the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to **save them.**

The first coming of Christ was for the purpose of administering, not justice, but medicine.
[Matthew Henry]

- **2nd Coming:** Fire will come down and judge an unrepentant sinful world

2 Peter 3:7 ...the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are **reserved for fire** until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men...

Revelation 1:14 [Read] His head and hair were **white like wool**, as white as snow, and His **eyes like a flame of fire**; 15 His **feet were like fine brass**, as if refined in a furnace, and His **voice as the sound of many waters**; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a **sharp two-edged sword**, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, **I fell at His feet as dead.**

- At the Second coming Jesus comes to Judge: Sinner will hide from wrath of the Lamb
- At the First coming Jesus came to save...**I judge no one now...**

16 And yet if I do judge, **My judgment is true**; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me. 17 It is also written in your law that the **testimony of two men is true**. 18 I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me."

- So far:

Everything I say to you about Myself is true.
I know who I am/where I came from/where I'm going...but you don't

Everything I do is 100% Perfect...I follow My Father's Plan Flawlessly

John 5:19b..."... the **Son can do nothing of Himself**, but **what He sees** the Father do; for whatever He does, the **Son also does in like manner.**

You say My word is not true because you need another witness?
Let Me introduce a second witness...**My Father**

- **Jesus bore witness of Himself**
- **The Father attests to the validity of what Jesus said and did**

1. Second witness
2. Second separate person bearing witness [Important]

Beware of false-doctrine: "Jesus Only" or "Oneness"

3. Must be baptized in Jesus name only, not Father, Son, HS [right recipe]
4. If you don't speak in tongues you are not saved
5. Holiness Standards: Dress, Grooming and Personal conduct
6. There is One god who manifests himself in 3 persons; Father, Son, HS.
7. E.g. The Father is the Son and not a separate Person from the Son
8. **Danger Will Robinson:** Different Jesus that cannot save

**If the Father was also the Son as the Oneness doctrine teaches
He could not be a witness of Himself**

In contrast the Bible **teaches here** that there is one God but revealed in **three distinct persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit**...Thus the Father could be a Second Witness

- His accusers heard the voice from Heaven

Matthew 3:16 [Jesus Baptism]....the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."**

- My Father bears witness of Me

19 Then they said to Him, **"Where is Your Father?"**

- Where is your Father? When you have no argument attack the person
- Ad hominem (Latin for "to the man" or "to the person")
- **Where is your Father?** Is it Joseph or ...?

19b...Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also."

John 14:6 ...No one comes to the Father except through Me. [Me or nobody]

Hearts growing hard by rejecting the only one who could save them
Jesus the Light of the World: Same sun that melts butter hardens clay

20 These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and **no one laid hands on Him**, for His hour had not yet come.

- **Jesus now teaching in the treasury:** Very public place in Jerusalem
 1. No one laid hands on Him
 2. His hour not yet come

Implication: Religious Leaders are fuming but unable to do anything about it

SUMMARY Jesus Defends His Self-Witness **and adds second, His Father and ours...**

John 20:17 [After His resurrection] Jesus said to [Mary] 'I am ascending to My Father **and your Father...**

IV. Jesus Predicts His Departure

21 Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and **you will seek Me, and will die in your sin.** Where I go you cannot come."

- **Four Profound statements:**
 1. I'm going away
 2. You will look for Me [Living among the dead]
 3. You will die in your sin. If you do...
 4. You will never be where I am going

After you kill Me I will resurrect and ascend to My Father. If you don't believe this...you will die in your sin. You will go to hell

- They will seek his dead body proving un-belief in resurrection of Christ
- **Believing in resurrection is a required part of saving faith...**

Romans 10:9 ... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has **raised Him from the dead**, you will be saved.

- **Where I'm going you can't come...**

22 So the Jews said, "Will He kill Himself, because He says, 'Where I go you cannot come'?" 23 And [Jesus] said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

- **Your unbelief proves you're from beneath;** i.e. You are of *this world not the next*

**Unless you believe in Me and transfer your citizenship from Earth to Heaven
You will die in your sins**

25 Then they said to Him, "**Who are You?**" And Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning."

This is a wonderful question [if asked] with a sincere heart. Yet this question of the Pharisees came from a combination of willful confusion and contempt. Some questions aren't used to discover the truth; they are used to resist the truth and justify a refusal to believe. [Guzik]

- **I said from beginning:** I AM the Messiah; Bread of Life, Light of Life, Savior

26 I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him."

- I really could say something to you but I will only say what the Father gives Me

"I could speedily expose all your iniquities-your pride and ambition, your hypocrisy and irreligion, your hatred to the light, and your malice against the truth, together with the present obstinate unbelief of your hearts, and show that these are the reasons why I say you will die in your sins." [Clarke]

27 They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father.

I can't understand the Bible? Need the Spirit of God

John 6:63 The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

1 Corinthians 2:14 ...the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned**.

28 Then Jesus said to them, "**When you lift up the Son of Man**, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

- **When you lift up the Son of Man:** When you crucify Me you will know I AM He
 1. That I do nothing of Myself
 2. That I only do what the Father shows ME
 3. That the Father is with Me [Tease: Word was with God and was God]
 4. **That everything I do pleases Him...**
- Jesus never finished a day looking back and wishing He did something different
- **How about us? How obedient are we in the really hard things?**

It is easy to say, "I always do the will of the Father" when you only debate theological points. It is another thing entirely to "always do the will of the Father" when it means going to the cross. The cross would prove the perfect obedience of Jesus. [Guzik]

All of these things you will realize as I hang on the Cross. Valley of Decision

- Some will realize but continue to deny to their own damnation
- Some will realize and believe to the Salvation of their souls

Luke 23:35 [Read] **...the people stood looking on.** But even the rulers with them **sneered**, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." 36 The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, 37 and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."

- Other soldiers would believe...

Luke 23:47 ...when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, **"Certainly this was a righteous Man!"**

The Cross of Jesus Split Time from BC to AD for the entire World
Divide mankind one soul at a time. Those destined for Heaven; and those for Hell

30 As He spoke these words, **many believed in Him.**

- **Those who knew He was taking their place on the cross would be saved...**

Acts 6:7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great **many of the priests were obedient to the faith.**

Luke 23:39 [Both criminals mocked Jesus but one repented] Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." [buying his own ticket] 40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." 43 And Jesus said to him, **"Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."**

"When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He
And you will HAVE TO make a decision

**When we see Jesus on the Cross every one of us must make a decision
Did this Man die for my sins?**

V. Truth Leading to Freedom

John 8:30 As He spoke these words, **many believed in Him.**

- **Believed in Him** ...mere acknowledgment of some fact or event; i.e. **intellectual not saving faith**

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews **who believed Him, "If you** abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

"If you abide in My word you are My disciples"

- **If you abide:** Remain, tarry, do not depart, continue to be present
- ... *then your belief is true*

Matthew 11:6 "...blessed is he who is **not offended because of Me.**"

**Are you going to go away too?
True disciples believe all that Jesus says...even when it hurts**

- Unacceptable to believe in **some of** what Jesus says. We must believe it all.
- **Jesus Word is God's Word:** Abide in My Word...

This too is another statement reflecting the unity between the Father and the Son. Jesus called men to abide in His word. In the mouth of anyone other than Jesus, these words would be absurd. [Guzic]

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

- **If you abide in My Word:**
 1. You are disciples indeed
 2. You **will know** the truth
 3. The truth **will set** you free

Implication to those who *believed Him*
You presently don't know the Truth and you are currently in bondage

- How do these *believers* respond to hard truth?

33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone.

- **"Believers"** Immediately offended:
 1. We are the chosen people; i.e. descendants of Abraham

2. We have never been in bondage
3. We are not in bondage now...

How were those vacations in Egypt, Babylon, and Assyria?
Who's calling the shots for you today? Rome?

"The power of self-deception in the unconverted man is infinite." (Ryle)

33b...How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"

- Jews: Hoping for a Messiah to free them from Rome
- Jesus: Not talking about freedom from physical bondage...

34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a **slave of sin**."

To the Jews and to the Christ Rejecting World...You are slaves of sin!

- Whoever commits sin; i.e. cannot stop sinning...is a slave to sin

Q. Who is really in bondage? Believers or Non-believers

Christians want to take away our freedoms...Rage against a God who wants to set them free

- **The world will rage against coming King**; How dare you tell us what to do...

Psalms 2:1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

**Let us do what we want to do! The problem?
What we want to do apart from God's Spirit will kill us...**

- **People of the world are...**
 1. **Slaves to...**
 - Drugs
 - Alcohol
 2. **Slaves to People-pleasing**
 - Keeping up with Jones'
 - Political Correctness
 3. **Slaves to Greed**
 - Never enough
 - Never satisfied
 4. **Slaves to Immorality**
 - Pornography
 - Sexual sin
 5. **Slave to Religion**

- Trying to Keep the Law
- Adhering to man-made regulations

Galatians 5:1 [NASB] It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

6. **Slave to Fear of Death:** No matter what they say

- Roller-coaster existence. No stability. No freedom.

**Whoever commits sin is a slave to sin
If you have to do it you are a slave to it**

35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

You are now a slave

Wouldn't you rather be a son of the Father...live free from bondage sin

36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Jesus: If I set you free you will be free indeed!

- **True freedom is found in Jesus**

1. Free from the bondage of sin: Addictions gone forever
2. Freedom to live the abundant life: No condemnation from the devil
3. Freedom to be who God created you to be: No longer slave but Son/Daughter

**Abide in My Word and the Truth will set you free
IF I set you free you will be free indeed! Born-Again. Second Chance. Free.**

**But in order to be freed from sin we must first realize we are in bondage to sin
We are Abram's descendants...we are okay!**

1. We belong to so and so denomination
2. We go to Calvary Chapel
3. We have parents that believe
4. We have our own moral compass
5. We don't do bad things like...those people

Mark 2:16 When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that He was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they said to His disciples, "Why is He eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 And hearing this, Jesus *said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

- We are all born sick... and all need a doctor

Romans 3:23 ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

- In order to be healed we need to realize we are sick
- In order to be free we must realize we are in bondage

Whoever commits sin is a slave to sin

SUMMARY Truth Leading to Freedom

VI. Who is Your Father? A. The One You Resemble

37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants

**I already know you are physical descendants of Abraham...
That's why I came to you first**

Romans 1:16 [Gospel] ...is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the **Jew first and also for the Greek.**

Romans 2:8 [Salvation offered] ...to the **Jew first and also to the Greek.** ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.

John 1: 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God...

- They will continue to reject and harden their hearts

**I know you are *physical children* of Abraham...
But Abraham is not your *spiritual father***

- Promise of Salvation:
 1. Not to Abraham's descendant in the flesh
 2. Based on Abrahams Spiritual children. i.e....

Those who resemble Abraham Spiritually in his relationship w/ God based on Faith

- Abraham believed God acted on that belief and it was counted as righteousness
- Abraham's faith saved him...he believed the Word of God and proved it by doing it

James 2:23b... "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the **friend of God.**

I know you are Abraham's physical descendants...

37b...but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.

- **You don't look like Abraham at all**

A son has a resemblance to his father. A son follows his father's example...

- **Abraham:** Altar builder/Worshiper of God/Man of faith/ Friend of God

38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father."

- I do what "I see" My Father doing / You do what you see **your father doing?**

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to

them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham.

If Abraham were your father?

You may be "descendants" of Abraham...**but Abraham is not your father**

- If you were Abraham's children you would believe in Me and do My Word

40 But now you **seek to kill Me**, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. 41 You do the deeds of your father."

- Abraham did not seek to kill me...you do the deeds of **your father?**

41b...Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God."

- **Oops:** Ad hominem... an argument or reaction directed against a person rather than the position they are maintaining.

No reply to the truth attack the person...

We know Joseph is not your father and your mother committed fornication

- We have one Father...God

Inscription inside the Lübeck Cathedral, Germany.

Ye call Me Master and obey me not,
Ye call Me Light and see me not,
Ye call Me way and follow me not
Ye call Me Life and desire me not,
Ye call Me wise and acknowledge me not,
Ye call Me fair and love me not,
Ye call Me rich and ask me not,
Ye call Me eternal and seek me not,
Ye call Me gracious and trust me not,
Ye call Me Noble and serve me not,
Ye call Me mighty and honor me not,
Ye call Me just and fear me not,
If I condemn you, blame me not.

42 Jesus said to them, "**If God were your Father, you would love Me**, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

- **I am everything the Father is...so**
 1. Accepting Me is accepting the Father
 2. Loving Me is Loving the Father

Hebrews 1:3 [Jesus is...] the brightness of [the Father's] glory and the **express image of His person**

Colossians 2:9 For in [Jesus] all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form

- **Jesus is everything the Father is...so**

1. Accepting Jesus is accepting the Father
2. Loving Jesus is Loving the Father
3. Thus rejecting Jesus is rejecting the One you call Father [Mormons]

John 5:23 ...all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

It is impossible for God to be the Father of someone who does not love Jesus
If God were your Father you would love Me

- Bewildered look on their faces...

43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

**Stopped listening when Jesus got personal. You need truth. You need freedom
Pride blocks all ability to listen to the Word of God**

- Pride is the sin of the devil.
- Pride blocks any understanding of the Word.

Tuned Him out and shut Him down...We are Okay!

1. Those who come to church with checklist aren't really listening
2. Those who hope the person next to them is listening...aren't really listening

Those who want to criticize rather than ingest/digest Word and apply it to themselves
Aren't really listening and so they are not really changing

- **Q. Why can't you understand what I am saying?**
- **A.?**

44 **You are of your father the devil...**

- **Mystery of their father solved:** Your father is the devil

Not ad hominem/bitterness or revenge... Absolute truth: **You are of your father the devil**

- Those who do not continue to abide in the Word are of the devil...

1 John 3:6 [Read] No one who abides in [Jesus] sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. 7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; **the one who practices righteousness is righteous**, just as He is righteous; 8 **the one who practices sin is of the devil**; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to **destroy the works of the devil**. 9 No one who is born of God **practices sin**, because His [God's] seed abides in him; and he cannot sin [continue in sin and like it], because he is born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the **children of the devil** are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. 11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we

should love one another...

- Loving one another is a sign our Father is God
- Hating others created in the image of God is a sign the Devil is our father

44b...and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

- Your desire is to Murder Lie like your father the devil

1. **Devil: First murderer:** Cain murdered Abel

1 John 3:12 ... Cain who was of the wicked one...murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

2. **Devil: First liar:** You will not surely die

He is a murderer and a liar... and you are his offspring

- You fulfill the desires of the devil
- **He lies to you and you gladly listen to him...**
 1. You gladly slander and accuse others
 2. You convinced sexual/perverse sin has no consequences in spite of facts
 3. You persuaded pornography won't destroy you and your family
 4. You certain you can ingest mind-altering drugs and lead a long happy life
- **Your father the devil lies to you and you listen to him...**

45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.

- Why do you want to kill Me for telling you the truth that can set you free?
 1. You are a sinner in desperate need of a Savior
 2. There is only One Savior/One way to God
 3. Must repent of your sins
 4. Religion can't save. All religions are of the devil.

Galatians 4:16 So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?

- Why do you not listen to Me? What have I done to invalidate My testimony?

46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?

- **Challenge:** When have you seen Me sin?
- Even the accuser has nothing to accuse Me of...

John 14:30 ... for the ruler of the world is coming, and **he has nothing in Me...**

1 John 3:5 [Jesus] was manifested to take away our sins, and **in Him there is no sin.**

- **I have come to rescue you...**

1. Why can't you listen?
2. Why can't you believe?

A. Because you are still too full of yourself...Pride

47 He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

Hear God's Word: You are a sinner in desperate need of a Savior

This is the Truth that sets us free. Free from the bondage of sin and eternality of hell

- They refused to acknowledge their need of a Savior. Thought they were entitled.
- Heaven would have rejoiced if they had:
 1. Listened and Believed Jesus Word
 2. Acknowledged their sin
 3. Accepted Jesus free gift of Life, Salvation and Freedom

Hebrews 3:15 "Today, if you will hear His voice, **Do not harden your hearts** as in the rebellion."

- Here is your opportunity to empty yourself/humble yourself...

2 Corinthians 6:1 [Do not]... receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation.**

- **Whosoever desires come to Jesus. Become a whosoever...**

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

You do not hear...because you are not of God

VII. Before Everything...I AM

There is one God and He is the Living God

48 Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

We were right you are demon possessed

- **You are a Samaritan;** i.e. your father was a Samaritan
 1. Tempting Jesus to discredit Samaritans [after saving woman at the well/town]
 2. Jesus is silent regarding being called Samaritan

- **You have a demon?**

Jesus stern warning concerning the power and consequences of Words

- Jesus to the Pharisees after warning of blaspheming the Holy Spirit...

Matthew 12:33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. 34 **Brood of vipers!** How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. 36 **But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.**

**"...37 For by your words you will be justified
...and by your words you will be condemned."**

- What you believe about Jesus you will say
- What you say about Jesus will determine your Eternal destiny

Who do men say that I AM. Who do you say that I AM

- **You have a demon...**

49 Jesus answered, **"I do not have a demon;** but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.

John 5:23 ... all should **honor the Son just as they honor the Father.** He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

- My life honors God/You dishonor Me thus you dishonor God
- **The world dishonors Jesus...**

1. Good man
2. Prophet
3. Angel
4. Greatest man that ever lived
5. Good Teacher
6. Leader of great religion
7. Guru of guru's

**Do you really know Who it is you are saying has a demon?
You dishonor Me.**

- **I honor My Father...**

50 And I **do not seek My own glory;** there is One who seeks and judges. 51 Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

**If anyone keeps My Word he shall never see death
Taste the sting of death**

John 11:26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall **never die**. Do you believe this?"

**Those who know Him will Close our eyes on this side and open them on the other
I Am making a way for you to you to never see death...**

52 Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon!"

- **We know you have a demon?** Another nail in coffin!

52b...Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never **taste death**.' 53 Are You greater than our father Abraham, **who is dead**? And the prophets are dead. **Who do You make Yourself out to be?"**

- **Abraham is not dead:** Rich man and Lazarus

V24 Unless you believe that *I am He* you will die in your sins
Who do you make yourself out to be?

54 Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.

- Let God vindicate/validate you through others

Proverbs 27:2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth...

- **My Father honors Me; The God you claim to know *honors Me***

55 Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.

- **You don't know God.** If you did you would come to Me

**You read His Word but do not "abide in" His Word
You know about Him but do not know Him**

John 5:38 But you **do not have His word abiding in you**, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. 39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

We cannot truly know a holy God without first knowing our pitiful state
A hopeless sinner in desperate need of a Savior.
We come to Him in humility or not at all

- IF they knew God they would know Jesus for who He is...
- **Who do you make yourself out to be? Good Question**

**Who did Jesus "make Himself out to be?"
Some would say Jesus never claimed to be God...**

Unless you believe that I AM he your will die in your sin

"He" not in original language. Unless you believe that **I AM** you will die in your sin

- Are You greater than Abraham?
- We are Abraham's children therefor we are saved...

56 Your father Abraham **rejoiced to see My day**, and he saw it and was glad."

- Your "father" Abraham rejoiced to see **My day**?

2000 years earlier Abraham rejoiced as he observed communion with Jesus

- **Genesis 14**

1. **Melchizedek king of Salem:** King of Jerusalem [King of Shalom; Prince of Peace]
2. **Hebrews 7:** Mystery man w/clues...
 - King of Righteousness
 - King of Peace
 - Without father or mother
 - Without genealogy
 - Had no beginning and no end
 - Continual Eternal Priest

After Abraham rescued nephew Lot...

3. **Melchizedek** emerges out of nowhere with Bread and Wine
4. Called the Priest of God Most High
5. He blesses Abraham
6. Abraham gave him a tithe
7. **Christophany:** Pre-Incarnate Jesus Christ. Abraham rejoice and was glad

Abraham also rejoiced when Jesus revealed Himself as our perfect Sacrifice

- **Genesis 22**

1. Isaac Son of Promise when Abraham 100 years old. Isaac now 33
2. Abraham told to sacrifice treasured son Isaac on an altar
3. Got up early in morning. So the two of them went together.
4. Isaac carrying the wood for his own sacrifice on his shoulders
5. Abraham built an altar on the mountain and placed the wood it
6. Bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar...his back to the wood.
7. Isaac complied.
8. Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven...

9. "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, **"Here I am."**
10. "Do not lay your hand on the lad
11. I know that you fear God since you have not withheld your only son from Me.

12. Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram
13. Offered it up for a burnt offering in place of his son
14. Abraham called the name of the place, **The-Lord-Will-Provide**

Before going up the mountain...

[Two servants] ...the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."
"My son, God will provide for *Himself* the lamb for a burnt offering."

2000 years later God did provide Himself as the Lamb; Burnt offering

- **Abraham saw My day and rejoiced!"** God provided sacrifice in place of his son

Abraham rejoiced to see my day...But not you...

Luke 19:43 [He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him] For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

- **Abraham saw My day...and was glad!**

57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have *You* seen Abraham?"

Jews knew what He was saying: I saw/spoke with Abraham 2000 years earlier

- You're not even 50 years old; certainly not 2000 years old

...as a matter of fact I AM ageless

58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, *before Abraham was, I AM.*"

- **Q.** Who do you claim to be?

**Before Abraham was...I AM
I have always been. I have never not been. I AM.**

- **Jesus was the voice from the burning bush**

Exodus 3:1 [Read] Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 And **the Angel of the Lord** appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush.

- The Angel of the Lord
- Not created being but "**messenger**"; Christophany; i.e. 2nd Person of Trinity [v4]

2b...So [Moses] looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." 4 So **when the Lord saw that [Moses] turned aside to look, **God called to****

him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And [Moses] said, "Here I am." 5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the **place where you stand is holy ground."**

Joshua 5:13 [Read] ...when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴ So He said, "No, but as **Commander of the army of the Lord** [Christophany] I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the **earth and worshiped, and said to Him**, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" ¹⁵ Then the Commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "**Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.**" And Joshua did so.

- No real chapter break...Who was speaking?

Joshua 6:1 Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. 2 **And the Lord said to Joshua:** "See! I have given Jericho into your hand

- The Angel of the Lord, Commander of the Army of the Lord
- **Christophany:** Pre-incarnate appearance of the Jesus in OT

[Cont.] Exodus 3:6 [Read] [Voice from Burning Bush continues] Moreover He said, "**I am the God of your father**—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

- **Who is speaking?** The Angel of the Lord or God? Yes

7 And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of **My people** who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. 9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

- After Abraham the children of Israel were enslaved for 400 years in Egypt
- All they knew of God is from past. All they saw were idols of Egypt
- God commissions Moses to deliver a people waiting for God to intervene...

11 But Moses said to God, "**Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh**, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to 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, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, '**What is His name?**' what shall I say to them?" 14 And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '**I AM has sent me to you.**' " 15 Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: '**The Lord 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 this is My memorial to all generations.**'"

**This is My Name. The Name of the Only Living God
Tell them I AM has sent me to you...**

▪ **Before Abraham...I AM**

They had asked him, "Who [are You claiming to be]?" and now they have His answer: "Before Abraham was, I Am," said Christ. It is the very name by which God revealed himself to Moses at the burning bush, "I AM." Yet Jesus takes this title to himself: "Before Abraham was," — not, "I was;" notice that; but, "I Am;" as if his life was one continued present existence, as indeed it is, for with God there is no past or future, but all things are ever-present to his infinite mind. When Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I am," he claimed the Godhead, he declared that he was certainly God, self-existent from all eternity. [Spurgeon]

Unless you believe that I AM the Living God you will die in your sins

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

**The Jews knew what he meant as demonstrated by their reaction
Penalty for Blasphemy was stoning. Not yet time...walked through midst of them**

- Jesus ***did claim*** to be God but did it *without honoring Himself*: Before Abraham I AM

John 10:33 ... "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

▪ **"It is My Father who honors Me"**

1. The Father you claim to know honors Me
2. He honors Me as [yes] greater than Abraham and greater than the prophets
3. **The Father honors Me...**
 - As His Eternal Son
 - As One worthy to be worshiped His creation
 - As the righteous Judge of men's souls
 - As Creator of all things created
 - By affirming Jesus as the Eternal God

Hebrews Chapter One

God honors Jesus by commanding the angels to worship Him

Hebrews 1:6 [Read] ...when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: **"Let all the angels of God worship Him."**

- **Firstborn:** Not firstborn with regard to being created but with regard to inheritance
- **Let the angel's worship Him...**
 1. Worship of angels/any created thing is prohibited/idolatry...

Revelation 22:8 [John the Apostle...] fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then [the angel] said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I

am your fellow servant

- **God the Father allows/commands humanity to worship Jesus**

Matthew 14:33 [Walk water] Then those who were in the boat came and **worshiped Him**

Matthew 28:17 [Post resurrection] When they saw Him, **they worshiped Him**

God honors Jesus by calling Jesus God

8 But to the Son He says: **"Your throne, O God,** is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, **"My Lord and my God!"**

God honors the Jesus by affirming His ability to Judge rightly

9 You have **loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;** Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

God honors Jesus by confirming Jesus as the Creator

10 And: [Father to the Son/First Person of Trinity to Second]] "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the **heavens are the work of Your hands.**

Hebrews 3:3 [Jesus] has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house.

Psalms 19:1 [David who met Jesus at threshing floor 1 Chron. 21]] The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

God honors Jesus by declaring His Eternality

11 They will perish, **but You remain;** And they will all grow old like a garment; 12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed.

God honors Jesus by asserting Him unchangeable

12b...But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the **same yesterday, today, and forever.**

Jesus the Great I Am

I AM, I have always been and I always will be!

- **We must get Jesus right. He is the Living God**

1. Bad News: Unless you believe that I AM you will die in your sins
2. **If we get Jesus right** we trust His promise to those who believe...

Powerful victorious people because of Jesus

Hebrews 13:5-6 "... 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. **What can man do to me?**' "

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, **who can be against us?**