

Jesus is DISHONORED

As a rabbi with disciples, Jesus was worthy of honor. Being jealous of his influence, the religious leaders publicly disrespect him, calling him a Samaritan and demon possessed. Both of which they believed to be cursed by God and not allowed at the Temple! While he honored God and they dishonored him, Jesus didn't get defensive but left judgment to God, who knows all hearts. *Don't let dishonor from the dishonorable keep you from honoring God!* Honor and respect are required for unity, and to be given to those in authority, both civic and pastoral—everyone to God, wives to their husbands, children to their parents, believers to their pastor, and citizens to their leaders (Mal. 1:6; Rom. 13:7; Eph. 5:33; Heb. 13:17). *You can't honor God in you if you can't honor those God put over you!*

Jesus defeats DEATH

Jesus makes the extraordinary claim that the *power of his word* will keep people from death! The leaders assume he is referring to physical death, so they compare him to the prophets and Abraham—who all died. *A man's word is a representation and extension of the man.* As only God can keep people from dying, they ask if Jesus thinks he is greater than the prophets. Jesus, however, makes a more extraordinary claim than that, as he is referring to salvation from *spiritual* death and judgment. *Christians may die physically, but they won't die eternally* (John 11:25, 26).

Jesus is DEITY

Abraham was born 2000 years before Jesus. As he was about 34 years old, the leaders mocked the idea Abraham saw Jesus. But Jesus didn't say Abraham saw 'me' but 'my day', meaning Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward in faith to the Messiah's ministry (Heb. 11:8-10). *The great man of faith put great faith in Jesus!* Jesus asserts not only his Messiahship but also his divinity by stating that before Abraham existed he was 'I AM' That called Abraham and met Moses (Ex. 3:1-14). Jesus puts the Greek words *ego emi* at the *end of the sentence* referencing the eternal God. As they could not believe in God in human flesh, they picked up stones to kill him (Lev. 24:16). This claim sets Christianity apart from all other belief systems and cults. *Jesus claimed to be God, because he was God!*