

The Father of Lies

John 8:31-59

Background

◆ Setting: The Feast of Tabernacles

◆ Discourses during the feast

- ◆ I am sent by my Father and you do not know Him (7:14-36)
- ◆ If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink (7:37-53)

◆ Discourses after the feast

- ◆ I am the light of the world (8:12-30)
 - ◆ Rejection and belief
- ◆ If you continue in my word, you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free

◆ Meaning of the feast

- ◆ A celebration of deliverance from captivity in Egypt

Themes

◆ Jesus: God's Servant (John 8)

- ◆ I come from and was sent by the Father (Vs. 28-29)
- ◆ I am the light of the World (Vs. 12)
- ◆ ...The truth will set you free... (Vs. 32)
- ◆ I seek not my own glory...
- ◆ Before Abraham was, I am

◆ God's Servant (Isaiah 42: 6-8)

- ◆ "*I will give thee...* for a light of the Gentiles" (or the Nations)
- ◆ "To open the blind eyes"
- ◆ "To bring out the prisoners..."
- ◆ I am the LORD... my glory I will not give to another"

Themes/Structure

◆ Jesus purpose

- ◆ Preach the word the Father gave to Him
- ◆ Glorify His Father
- ◆ Expose sin

◆ Outline:

◆ The Pharisees Identified

- ◆ You are slaves to sin (31-38)
- ◆ Abraham is not your father (39-41)
- ◆ Your Father is the Devil (42-47)

◆ Jesus Identified

- ◆ Greater than Abraham (48-53)
- ◆ The Eternal Savior (54-59)

The Pharisees Identified

- ◆ Jesus' first premise: **You need to be set free**
 - ◆ “If Ye abide in my word...” (John 14:6)
 - ◆ “I am the light of the world”
- ◆ Their Question: “Why do we need to be made free?”
 - ◆ We are Abraham's children and have **never** been enslaved
 - ◆ Nation had been in bondage many times – Currently in bondage
 - ◆ Spiritual state likely in view (Matt. 3:9)
 - ◆ Descendant of Abraham = Freeborn child of God
 - ◆ No Jew was allowed to be a “slave” (Lev 25: 39-46)

The Pharisees Identified

◆ Jesus' first response

- ◆ “Everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin”

 - ◆ Duration of slavery?

 - ◆ Slavery to whom?

- ◆ Descendant of Abraham: Slave or son?

 - ◆ “Slave does not remain forever” (Gen. 21:10)

 - ◆ “Son remains forever” – Heir of the covenant and promises (Rom. 9: 7-13)

 - ◆ Physical descent not enough. (Gal. 4)

- ◆ You do the works of your Father

 - ◆ “No place for my words or works”

 - ◆ You do the works of your father

The Pharisees Identified

- ◆ Their first contradiction: “Abraham is our Father”

- ◆ Abraham’s Works

- ◆ Gen 15:6, Heb. 11:8

- ◆ He believed what God spoke and obeyed

- ◆ Their Works

- ◆ “Ye seek to kill me... because I tell you the truth”

- ◆ They do not believe his words and do not obey

- ◆ Display their hatred for the truth

- ◆ Jesus’ Conclusion

- ◆ Abraham is not your father

The Pharisees Identified

- ◆ Their second contradiction: “We be not born of fornication”
 - ◆ Claim vs. Identity
- ◆ Jesus’ second response
 - ◆ If God is your father... Why don’t you love me?
 - ◆ If God is your father... Why do you hate my words?
 - ◆ “**Ye are of your father the Devil**” → Their father identified
 - ◆ Love of murder and lies
 - ◆ Hatred of the truth
- ◆ Jesus’ Conclusion: Ye are not of God

Jesus Identified

◆ The Pharisees' Challenge Christ's identity

◆ “You are a **Samaritan** and have a **demon**”

◆ Samaritan: Half Jewish corrupter of the true religion

◆ Jesus' response

◆ “Do not seek my own glory”

◆ The Father seeks to glorify the Son

◆ The Father will judge those who do not

◆ “Those who...continue in my word... shall never see death

◆ “**Never ever** see death”

◆ Renews and **intensifies** message

Jesus Identified

- ◆ The Pharisees challenge his power
 - ◆ “Now we know...”
 - ◆ “Are you greater than Abraham?”
- ◆ Jesus: Greater than Abraham
 - ◆ Abraham looked forward to Christ’s day
 - ◆ “Rejoiced” in the future coming of Christ
 - ◆ “Before Abraham was, I am”
 - ◆ Claims to be the eternal God
 - ◆ Identity rooted in redemption (Ex. 3:14-15)
- ◆ The response of the Jews: hate and rejection

Application

- ◆ Who is your father?
 - ◆ Known by their fruits (Matt. 7:16-20, Galatians 5)
- ◆ In what is your faith?
- ◆ What kind of faith do you have?
- ◆ “Who do ye say that I am?”