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?”