

Calvary Chapel Viewpoint

H.I.S. Men

(Honor – Integrity – Service)

Study in John

Jews Versus Jesus?

John 8:31–59 (ESV)

- ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”
³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.
³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.
³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
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 does not stand in 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.

Who is Jesus addressing here?

How would you describe their faith?

What does Jesus know about them? (See John 2:23-25.)

Verse 31 is one of many passages in the Gospels where Jesus teaches the conditions of discipleship. How do you define a disciple?

Application: Jesus is calling us to be His disciples, too. In this passage, Jesus gives us a picture of what a disciple looks like.

- What should we be doing if we are His disciples?

- How do we do that?

- What is at the heart of being a disciple?

Verse 32 What does the truth set us free from?

What is the error of the Jews' statement in verse 33?

Verse 34 What does it mean to be a slave to sin?

Application: Can you see the people around you who are enslaved to sin?

1. What can set them free?

2. Set free for what purpose?

The Jews cling to their relationship with Abraham throughout this passage. What's their perspective on Abraham?

Why is their relationship with him so important?

Who does Jesus say is their father?

Another major point Jesus makes is that they are unable to hear. Why are they unable to hear?

Note: In one sense every human being is a child of the devil since we all do the things that Satan does out of our sinful human nature. However, the believer is also a child of God by faith in Jesus Christ. Consequently, we are always either manifesting the traits of one of our spiritual fathers or the other. This is the result of walking either by the flesh or by the Spirit.

Application: We are surrounded by people just like this who are unable to hear—and enslaved to sin. Are we burdened for them? Are we praying for opportunities to speak into their lives? Are we praying for opportunities to engage our culture?

What is the intent of the Jews when they deny being illegitimate children?

Why do the Jews accuse Jesus of being a Samaritan in verse 48?

Verse 52 is the second time Jesus is accused of being demon possessed. (See John 7:20) Why does the crowd think that?

Why are the Jews confused over the death issue?

Why do they pick up stones to kill Him?

Note: If Jesus had only wanted to claim that He existed before Abraham, He could have said, "I was." By saying, "I am," He is not just claiming preexistence but deity.