

## John 8:48-59– Before Abraham Was, I AM

### Introduction

1. The opposition to Jesus has been increasing and is now at a climax
2. The world is at enmity with God and His righteousness
3. The depraved heart seeks to destroy by the sinful deeds that come out of it; it is what comes out of a person that defiles and destroys

**Main Idea: The sinful heart mocks God. But Jesus is full of grace and truth. The truth of the Gospel humbles and hardens, and it is offered to all people everywhere. To receive the Gospel Truth, one must believe Jesus is God.**

### Innuendo & Irony (John 8:48)

1. The crowd seeks to kill Jesus; they hate Him – they justify their enslavement to sin before the truth of Christ for their father is Satan
2. The crowd insults Jesus with a racial slur; they call Him a Samaritan who were partly Jewish and then with blasphemy – *you have a demon*
  - a. Jesus tells the crowd that their father is not Abraham, nor God, since they do not do the deeds of Abraham (**John 8:39b, 42a, 47**)
  - b. They react with an accusation against Jesus saying He is not a pure Jew, but mixed in ethnicity
3. The world cannot bear the truth of God; it exchanges the truth for a lie
4. Jesus tells them the truth to humble them, but they mock and scoff with irony, innuendo, and blasphemy

### Jesus, Full of Grace and Truth (John 8:49-51, 54)

1. Jesus gives them a warning and offers them grace
2. Jesus tells them He does not have a demon, for He honors (glorifies) God
  - a. Jesus obeys the will of God perfectly in order to accomplish the purposes of God (**See John 4:34, 5:17-19, 10:37-38, 14:10**)
  - b. If the crowd opposes the person, words, works of Christ, they oppose God, His mission, purposes, and Truth
3. Jesus tell them that they dishonor Him
  - a. They hear His words and reject them, they reject Him (**see 1 John 2:22-23**)
4. Jesus does not have to defend Himself for the Father glorifies Him
  - a. He willingly humiliated Himself to become incarnate, to walk among scoffers, therefore God exalts Him; the Father glorifies the Son
5. Since the crowd rejects so great a salvation, what is left is judgment
  - a. If you will not have the grace of God in the forgiveness of sins through Jesus, then what is left is not a God of mercy, but a God of holy righteousness
  - b. To be found unclothed with Jesus, and instead naked on the day of judgment, you will find yourself facing eternal hell, an enemy of God
6. But Jesus presents His enemies the free offer of the Gospel of Grace
  - a. Jesus presents Himself as the center of everyone's eternal existence; You must believe in Christ alone for salvation
  - b. What Jesus has to say is eternally important
  - c. This offer is to anyone, meaning every person in every tribe, tongue, nation
  - d. What is required is that you KEEP His Word, meaning you must believe it; you lay hold of His Word, heed it, embrace it, persevere in Christ, resolve to live in His Word the rest of your life (**John 8:31-32**)

- e. A child of God remains in Christ's Word and never leaves it because God preserves them by His regenerate power and grace (**Jude 24-25, Philippians 1:6**)
  - f. God causes believers to walk in His statutes (**Ez 36:26-27, Jer 31:33**)
  - g. God saves us to the utmost
7. God's Promise is to never taste death (the second death at the Great White Throne Judgment), but receive eternal/ everlasting life

### The Earthly and the Heavenly (John 8:52-57)

1. The crowd thinks only as the natural man, on earthly, temporal things
2. Believers and unbelievers physically die, but only believers experience eternal life while unbelievers experience eternal death
  - a. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (**2 Cor 5:6-8**)
  - b. To live is Christ (serving Him), to die is gain (see Him face to face); MORE of Christ! (**Philippians 1:21**)
  - c. The unbeliever faces spiritual death (a second death) (**Rev 20:11-15**)
  - d. The lake of fire is a place where there is no joy, love, gladness, only wrath and judgment from God – We are saved from God!
3. What should have humbled the listeners only hardens them against Christ
  - a. Are you greater than the patriarchs and prophets? YES
  - b. Jesus is preeminent over all and the Father glorifies Him
  - c. Jesus again tells them the Truth – they are not of God (**See John 7:28, 8:19, 42, 47**)
  - d. Jesus knows the Father eternally; seen Him face-to-face (**John 1:1**)
  - e. Jesus tells the crowd that for them to say they know God makes them a liar for they reject Him, the Son of God, and seek to kill Him
4. Jesus proclaims His connection with Abraham – the covenant made between God and Abraham was about Him; it pointed forward to Christ
  - a. The promised seed that would bless all families is the Christ (**Gen 12**)
  - b. When God fulfilled the promise of Isaac, the promised seed, Sarah laughed – and the aged couple delighted and rejoiced (**Genesis 21:6-7**)
  - c. Abraham saw Jesus' day with the eyes of faith, believing the promise made to Adam and Eve, the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent (**Genesis 3:15**); Abraham rejoiced to see Christ!
  - d. The crowd reacts in blasphemous speech – *you have a demon*

### Emmanuel, the Great I AM (John 8:58-59)

1. Jesus makes a definitive statement about His Deity – He is the incarnate God; He is God the Son come in the flesh
2. Jesus ascribes once more the personal name of God (YHWH) to Himself
  - a. Jesus says He is ἐγώ εἰμι, I AM; He is the self-existent One, the Eternal One who needs nothing, the One in whom life is found; giver of life
  - b. John quotes Jesus seven times using the I AM statements with a predicate (I AM the bread, shepherd, light, etc) and seven times without a predicate, just I AM (**John 4:26, 6:20, 8:24, 28, 58, 13, 18**)
  - c. Jesus declares Himself, GOD!!!! The God of the OT is Jesus!
3. The crowd was going to kill Him for blasphemy, but Jesus hid Himself for it was not His hour; Jesus would not die by stoning, but on the Cross

**Application:** Will we say Jesus is crazy or with Him that HE IS! You ARE!?