

4.29.18 ~ John 8:47-59,  
"Jesus Responds to His Accusers."

See John 8:42-46... It seems no matter what Jesus does or says, even though His miracles and the words He speaks were given to Him by the Father in heaven, the religious rulers are not going to believe or accept Him; although (*verse 46*) they find no guile or sin or falsehood in Him, still they will not believe Him.

Those who reject Christ are children of Satan, and he has been a liar and murderer since the beginning (*cf. John 8:44*); he was the most beautiful of angelic hosts (*cf. Ezekiel 28:13-17*) yet he rebelled against God and was thrown from heaven to earth where he deceived Eve and Adam (*cf. Genesis 3:1-22*), bringing the curse of sin into our world, for which there would only be one cure, Jesus Christ the Lord.

**1John 3:8**, "He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."

Jesus called these Jewish religious rulers "sons of the devil," and He constantly judged them to be unacceptable to God, self-righteous hypocrites, blind guides, a brood of vipers, and most damning (**Matthew 23:15**), "sons of hell."

The Lord's repeated condemnation of these false religious leaders judged them to be liars, murderers and enemies of God.

**Read John 8:47-51...** These guys aren't too happy about being called children of God's #1 enemy, Satan. They respond with their greatest insult by saying Jesus is a Samaritan and He has a demon.

The Jews hated and despised Samaritans, considering them to be half-breeds and wild dogs, for Samaritans were the result of intermarriages between Jews and Gentiles around 700 B.C., when tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim were deported into Assyria by King Shalmaneser. These mixed breeds did not follow the religious practices of Israel and so were unclean.

But isn't it interesting that when Jesus first reveals Himself as Messiah, it is to a Samaritan woman, at a well, in Samaria (*cf. John 4:25-26*).

By the way, many Jews had such animosity toward the Samaritans that they would not travel through Samaria, and if they did by chance step into the boundaries of Samaria, they would "kick the dirt off their sandals" before entering back into the land of Israel, in order to not defile the Holy Land.

By calling Jesus a Samaritan, the Jews were saying He was an enemy of God. Not only did they call Jesus a Samaritan, they said he was possessed by a demon, and on another occasion (**Mark 3:22**) they said, "*He is possessed by Beelzebub! By the prince of demons He is driving out demons.*"

The Jews had slandered John the Baptizer with the same accusation (**Matthew 11:18**), *"He has a demon."* To say that Jesus is demon possessed, was to say, not only was He not from God, but He was insane, for demon possessed-people act irrationally, not in control of their senses, insane.

What is surprising is that Jesus didn't angrily reply to their accusations, but instead He simply said, *"I do not have a demon"; but [in fact] "I honor My Father while you dishonor Me."*

Jesus is not seeking His own honor, but that of the Father (**John 5:22-23**), *"If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on My own; but He sent Me,"* (**John 8:42**), *"If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on My own; but He sent Me."*

Jesus didn't come to earth to receive glory for Himself, but instead (**Matthew 1:21**), to *"save His people from their sins,"* (**Luke 19:10**), *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost,"* (**Hebrews 9:28**), *"Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; ...to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him."*

Even though Jesus doesn't seek His own glory, there is one who gives it to Him, the Father in heaven, who judges all things and places everything under the authority of His Son (**Philippians 2:9-11**), *"God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"* (**Isaiah 52:13**), *"My Servant will act wisely; He will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted."*

All who keep the word of Christ will not see death (cf. John 8:51), this is repeated in the Scriptures (cf. John 3:16; 5:24; 6:50; 11:25-26).

**Read John 8:52-59...** The Jews respond to Jesus statement, *"if anyone keeps My word, he will never taste death,"* saying, *"Are you greater than Abraham, the prophets, who died... Who do you think you are?"*

Jesus says (**verse 56**), *"Abraham rejoiced to see the day of My coming,"* they respond, *"You are not yet 50 years old, and you have seen Abraham?"* There is no way Jesus was alive when Abraham lived, and Abraham is definitely dead, how could Jesus possibly see him (**see Matthew 22:30-33**)?

When Jesus says (**verse 58**), *"I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am!"* This is a direct claim to deity, to equality with God, for this is the sacred name for God, the "I AM" title God gave Himself in **Exodus 3:14**, *"God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

This is also expressed in **Revelation 1:8**, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty," i.e., "I AM, I always have been and I always will be, because, I AM."

The Jews respond to Jesus' statement (**verse 59**), "At this, they picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus hid Himself, slipping away from the temple grounds."

They know He is saying He is equal with God, so they pick up stones to kill Him (**Leviticus 24:16**), "anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him. Whether an alien or native-born, when he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death."

Jesus didn't try to rectify any misunderstanding, for He was clearly claiming to be God. But in God's sovereignty, it was not time for the Son to die, His time had not yet come (cf. John 7:30; 8:20; 10:39; 13:1), "no one laid a hand on Him, because His time had not yet come."

No one would take Him by force (**John 10:17-18**), "I lay down My life - only to take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

No wonder Jesus so strongly warned the Jews (**John 8:24**), "I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins."

Jesus' response to unbelief and to affirm belief is one in the same (**John 14:6**), "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

**John 20:31**, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name."

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