

# “The Gospel of John: The Eternal One”

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## Scripture

### John 8:48-59

“The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that **You are a Samaritan and have a demon?**"

Jesus answered, "**I do not have a demon**; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. "But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, **if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.**"

The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. **Abraham died, and the prophets also**; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.'

"**Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham**, who died? The prophets died too; **whom do You make Yourself out to be?**"

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'; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but **I do know Him and keep His word.**

"**Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day**, and he saw it and was glad." So, the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and **have You seen Abraham?**"

Jesus said to them, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.**" Therefore, they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple."

**John's Gospel** -> Proving that Jesus is God in the Flesh

### John 20:30-31

“Therefore, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but **these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ**, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

### John's Gospel Breakdown:

- **The Book of Signs** - **John Chapters 1 through 12**
- **The Book of Glory** - **John Chapters 13 through 20**
- **The Motivation for Ministry** - **John Chapter 21**

### John -> Chapter Review:

- John 1 -> **Jesus is God**; He Came to Earth as God; to **Explain the Father to Men**
- John 2 -> Miracle at Cana; Jesus **Not Entrusting Himself to Men**
- John 3 -> Nicodemus; **Spiritual Life is the Key**; The **Son's Mission to Save**
- John 4 -> Woman at the Well; **Spiritual Life is the Key**; Socioeconomic Status Not Important

- John 5 -> **Jesus Heals on the Sabbath**; The Jews Attack Jesus; **Jesus Defends via the 5 Witnesses**
- John 6 -> 5,000 Fed; He is **the Bread of Life**; Difficult Words and Many Leave; **The Disciples Stay**
- John 7 -> **The Jews Attack Jesus**, Full On; The People are Divided
- John 8 -> Jesus is **the Light of the World**; **The Truth Will Set You Free**; **Reactions to Jesus's Words**

## Chapter 8: Two Months Ago:

**Some Reject Jesus** -> Why do they reject Jesus?

- They reject the true God because **their heart is hardened**
- They reject the gospel because **they are of the world and in the world**
- They reject Him because He **did not fit their view of the world**

**But:**

**Some Accept Jesus:** **What does Accepting the Gospel look like?**

Many came to believe in Him!

But Jesus said:

"If you continue in My word" -> continue is the Greek word *meno* which means "to stay or remain"

**What does mean to continue in His word?**

- When your heart desires to study the Bible -> you stay in His word
- When you long to talk with Him and listen in prayer -> you stay in His word
- When your lifestyle reflects the principles of God's Word -> you stay in His word

**If that is a reflection of who you are today?**

If so, Jesus says, "**then you are truly disciples of Mine**"

Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free"

Jesus is the truth -> **John 14:6**

**He is the only one who can set you free!**

Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.**"

But "**if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.**"

**Accepting the Gospel is not mere intellectual assent to the truths of the Bible**

**Accepting the Gospel is reflected in a lifestyle change aligning to biblical principles**

**And:**

Some are **Children of the Devil**

**Are there some people who are children of the devil?**

In essence, anyone who does not come to Jesus in faith by the end is a child of the devil

**Matthew 12:30**

“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.”

- The children of the devil will reject Jesus
- The children of the devil will fight against Him

It is important to realize, we do not immediately know who they are

Jesus knows who they are

We need to look for signs in them -> Jesus said, “You shall know them by their fruit”

There is the thief on the cross who was a child of Jesus

## Children of the Devil

### John 8:44

"**You are of your father the devil**, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, **for he is a liar and the father of lies.**"

These Jews do not belong to Jesus -> they are not part of the gift:

### This Week: John 8:48-59

"The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that **You are a Samaritan and have a demon?**"

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"Truly, truly, I say to you, **if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.**"

The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. **Abraham died, and the prophets also**; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.'

"**Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham**, who died? The prophets died too; **whom do You make Yourself out to be?**"

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'; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but **I do know Him and keep His word**.

"**Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day**, and he saw it and was glad." So, the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and **have You seen Abraham?**"

Jesus said to them, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.**" Therefore, they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple."

## You're on the Wrong Team!

### John 8:48-50

"The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that **You are a Samaritan and have a demon?**"

Jesus answered, "**I do not have a demon**; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. "But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges."

The Jews do not like that Jesus called them children of the Devil

They oppose Jesus, so consequently, Jesus must be of the Devil

“**You are a Samaritan and have a demon**” -> they insult Jesus calling Him a Samaritan

What would we call this treatment in the modern world?

Ad-Hominem argument -> you can't win the debate on truth, so you discredit the individual

Samaritans were considered half-breeds, thought by the Jews not to be the true children of Abraham

They questioned the Jews right to be the exclusive children of Abraham

“I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me” -> Jesus is aligned with the Father

Earlier, Jesus told the Jews, if they were aligned with the Father:

### John 8:42

“Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me”

Jesus again tells them that they are on the wrong team, but He is not in it for His glory

"But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges”

### John 5:39-42

“Search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is **these that testify about Me**; and **you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life**. I do not receive glory from men; but I know you, that **you do not have the love of God in yourselves**”

Jesus is not in it for Himself -> He is a Follower of the Father's will -> **He brings glory to the Father**

These Jews, however, do not bring glory to the Father, even though they had the birthright

They reject Jesus, even though He is God

**They rejected the God of the Bible** having been on the other team

### The True Message

#### John 8:51

“Truly, truly, I say to you, **if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.**”

“keeps My word” -> *tereo* in the Greek -> to guard or hold fast to with respect to duty

**Holding fast to Jesus's words is a key indicator that you have spiritual life:**

- If you only think about God's words on Sunday mornings, that's a **warning sign**
- If you're not interested in hearing from God's words on Sunday, that's a **warning sign**
- If you consider God's words to be optional and your lifestyle is in contrast to biblical principles, that's a **warning sign**

If you love His words, though, and love to hear them proclaimed, **you will never see spiritual death**

Naturally, **the Jews are not moved by Jesus giving them the truth** -> they are children of the devil, after all

**So, they say:**

### Who Do You Think You Are?

#### John 8:52-53

"The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. **Abraham died, and the prophets also**; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.'

**"Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?"**

"You're outta yer mind, Jesus" -> they cannot conceive of spiritual life and death

**"Abraham died, and the prophets also"** -> They only think about physical death

#### 1 Corinthians 2:14

"But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for **they are foolishness to him**; and he cannot understand them, **because they are spiritually appraised.**"

**We see many people like this, don't we?**

We speak of Jesus to them, and they cannot understand what the big deal is

**They think, "I'm doing OK on my own. I don't need God. Look at my house, my car, my bank account!"**

Yet, spiritual life is the key -> We see that with Nicodemus, Woman at the Well, etc.

**"Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham"** -> sounds a lot like the Woman at the Well

#### John 4:12

**"Are you greater than our father Jacob?"**

"greater" -> *mega* in the Greek -> "something of a higher rank or prestige"

Jesus told her that she needed spiritual life -> "drink from **the living water**, not this physical well"

**The Jews question Jesus's rank, prestige, authority, eminence,** just like the woman did

### I Know God the Father, Personally!

#### John 8:54-55

"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'; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but **I do know Him and keep His word.**"

Jesus responds "I don't need to glorify Myself"

**While I could glorify Myself, I do not need to do it**

### Why?

Because the Father has done that, and will continue to do so

## How did the Father glorify Jesus?

At His baptism -> "This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" -> many witnesses

At His transfiguration -> "This is My Beloved Son, listen to Him" -> Peter, James, and John witnessed it

"of whom you say, 'He is our God'; and you have not come to know Him" -> You "say" that you know Him

"You say He is your God"

But, in fact, you are clueless – you cannot conceive of knowing Him -> you are **an enemy of God**

How many people do you know like that? -> they say they know God, they give you "church words"

"but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but **I do know Him and keep His word**"

I am not an enemy of God – I know Him personally

### John 1:1-2

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."

Jesus was with the Father in eternity past -> **even in the beginning: before time began**

Jesus has intimate knowledge of the Father

**Jesus holds fast to the Father's words -> He keeps His word – Guards it, proclaims it, defends it to others**

As should we, His children

The Jews reject Jesus and the Father's words, though

So, Jesus brings the hammer:

### I Am the "I AM" – The Eternal One

#### John 8:56-59

"**Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day**, and he saw it and was glad."

So, the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and **have You seen Abraham?**"

Jesus said to them, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.**"

Therefore, they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple."

"Abraham rejoiced to see My day" -> Two potential interpretations of that:

- 1) Abraham is still alive and sees it now -> he is watching -> **this would be present tense**
- 2) Abraham saw it from a distance in the past, having had it shown to Him -> **this is past tense**

The writer of Hebrews says it is 2):

#### Hebrews 11:13

“All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, **but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance**, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.”

Abraham saw the future when Isaac was born, the beginning of God’s promises being fulfilled

The Jews are incredulous -> “You are not yet fifty years old”

“Have You seen Abraham?”

What could have Jesus responded? -> “Dude, I CREATED Abraham!”

Instead, Jesus invokes the Holy Name of God – the “**I AM**”

### **Exodus 3:13-14**

“Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, '**What is His name?**' What shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "**Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.**"

People sometimes tell me that Jesus never claimed to be God

Seriously?

Again and again, He claimed to be God -> and HE IS!

### **Deuteronomy 32:39** (Song of Moses)

“**See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me;** It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.”

Jesus repeated what He said earlier:

### **John 8:23-24**

“He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; **for unless you believe that I am [He], you will die in your sins.**”

The Jews didn’t want to hear it:

“Therefore, they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple”

So, they sought to stone Him for blasphemy -> He claimed to be God

Jesus “hid Himself” -> He disappeared into thin air

He is the I AM – the Eternal One

### **Every Knee Will Bow:**

### **Philippians 2:9-11**

“For this reason, also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

You want a real, historical example of that? -> **John 18:2-6** -> **Page 972 in the Pew Bible**

John records how unbelievers will react in the end times:

### **John 18:2-6**

“Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. Judas then, having received the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." **He said to them, "I am He."** And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. So, when He said to them, "I am He," **they drew back and fell to the ground.**”

He Is “The Eternal One” – The Great I AM

Prayer

Benediction