

# “The Gospel of John: Children of the Devil”

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## Scripture

### John 8:37-47

“I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because **My word has no place in you.**”

"I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore, **you also do the things which you heard from your father.**"

They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. "But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, **a man who has told you the truth**, which I heard from God; **this Abraham did not do.**"

"You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." 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."

"Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because **you cannot hear My word.**"

"**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.**"

"But **because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.** "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?"

"**He who is of God hears the words of God**; for this reason, you do not hear them, because **you are not of God.**"

## Two Weeks Ago

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**

## Last Week

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 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

**This week** -> The 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

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

### **False Hope**

### **John 8:37**

"I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because **My word has no place in you.**"

The Jews were Abraham's descendants

So are Muslims, by the way, through Ishmael

Family or ethnic lineage does not dictate spiritual relationship

### Each one is responsible for their own relationship to Jesus

If we think we're in the kingdom because our father or mother has a relationship with Jesus, we're wrong

The true test of spiritual relationship is whether Jesus's "word has no place in you"

"place" -> *choreo* -> "to make room for" -> have not made room for Jesus's word

His children "make room" for Jesus in their lives

Do you make room for Jesus in your life each day?

Is He an active participant in your life?

Or is it only on Sunday when you speak about Him or speak to Him?

Do your children and grandchildren make room for Jesus? -> is He important to them or not?

These Jews didn't have room for Jesus in their lives

They did not even like His existence -> they wanted to kill Him

Jesus continues:

### John 8:38-39

"I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore, **you also do the things which you heard from your father.**"

They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, **do the deeds of Abraham.**" But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, **a man who has told you the truth**, which I heard from God; **this Abraham did not do.**"

We tend to follow the leadership of our parents

Jesus said that he speaks from what He saw in His Father -> Jesus was a Follower of the Father

The Jews also "do the things which you heard from your father"

They respond that Abraham is their father -> thinking earthly relationships

Yet Jesus says that they do not follow Abraham's example

He confronts them, saying "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham"

If Abraham is your spiritual father, then back up your words with actions, Jesus says

What was Abraham's great work?

### Hebrews 11:8-10

"By faith Abraham, **when he was called, obeyed** by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; **for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.**"

### Romans 4:3

"**ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**"

He pursued God through obedience and believed in God with a deep faith

Enough to pack up his family and move to a land he did not know

In short, Abraham made room for God in his life

These Jews, a very different story

Not only did they not believe in Jesus

Not only did they not listen to Jesus

Not only did they not obey Jesus

“But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; **this Abraham did not do.**”

They sought to kill Him

Jesus shared a parable, prophesying that the Jews would do this:

**Mark 12:1-7**

“He began to speak to them in parables: "A man PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A VAT UNDER THE WINE PRESS AND BUILT A TOWER and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. "At the harvest time **he sent a slave to the vine-growers, in order to receive some of the produce of the vineyard from the vine-growers.** "They took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. "Again, he sent them another slave, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully. "And he sent another, and that one they killed; and so with many others, beating some and killing others.

6"**He had one more to send, a beloved son; he sent him last of all to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'** "But those vine-growers said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours!'”

God gave the Jews special blessings in this world

They are the tenants of the vineyard

Yet, they rejected the owner of the vineyard

Beating the prophets, killing some of them, and then they reject and kill the Son, the heir to everything

Because they wanted control of the inheritance

Remember, Jesus had simply told them the truth:

**John 8:24**

“Therefore, I said to you that you will die in your sins; for **unless you believe that I am**, you will die in your sins.”

Believe in Jesus, or face the consequences -> that is the truth

Abraham believed

These Jews would not

## False Claims

### John 8:41-43

"You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God."

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.

Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because **you cannot hear My word.**"

Jesus says "you are not doing the needs of your father"

The Jews respond:

"We were not born of fornication" -> **they are mocking Jesus's birth!**

An Ad Hominem argument -> if you can win the debate, attack the debater!

They considered Jesus's birth as illicit because Mary was pregnant not by Joseph

They say, "we know who our father is!"

The Jews claimed to know God

The Jews claimed a relationship with God

Jesus confronts them:

"**If God were your Father, you would love Me**" -> In essence, "you sure aren't acting like it"

Jesus came from Heaven; from the very Father the Jews claim to know!

"For I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me"

He tells them, "I'm on a mission from the Father!"

Just like the parable of the vine-growers that I read earlier

The Jews want nothing to do with Jesus

There's a reason they want nothing to do with Him:

## 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:**

### John 6:37-40

"**All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.**"

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. **"This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing but raise it up on the last day.**" For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

Jesus tells them, they're on the wrong team

The Devil has lied from the beginning:

### Genesis 3:1-5

"He said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'" **The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**

The devil deceives Eve into thinking that God has been hiding something from her

The devil says that she will not die

She did die...

The Devil's nature is to deceive

How many lies of the devil have you fallen prey to in your life?

- "God will not accept me because I hurt someone..."
- "God will not forgive me because I lived a bad life..."
- "God must not love me because I am suffering..."
- "You can lose your salvation..."

I'm sure you have heard many others...

These Jews are just like "their daddy"

They said that Jesus blasphemed God

They actually wrote that Jesus was in prison for 40 days and no one came to His defense, so they killed Him

They covered their tracks after the crucifixion -> taking down the body quickly

They said that someone stole Jesus's body and paid off the guards to agree with them

Lies, Lies, Damning Lies from a people in darkness

John recorded the spiritual condition of the Jews:

### John 3:19-20

"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and **men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.**" For everyone who does evil hates the Light and **does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.**"

Jesus is the Light of the World, and they do not like the Light because they are men of the darkness

## Why Don't You Believe?

### John 8:45-46

**"But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?"**

Men of darkness do not recognize the truth

Pilate asked Jesus, "What is Truth?"

Men of darkness are not people of the truth

**They consider themselves above the truth and that offends them**

## You're Not My Sheep

### John 8:47

**"He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason, you do not hear them, because you are not of God."**

Simply put, these Jews are not of God

They should love Jesus but instead, they hate Him:

### 1 John 2:9-11

**"The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes."**

Many people claim to know Jesus but walk in darkness

Many people claim God as their Father, but have no concept of His love for His own

Do you love God?

Is that reflected in your love for others?

His sheep also hear His voice:

### John 10:24-28

**"The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."**

Do you hear His voice?

## Prayer

## Benediction