

What Will You Do With Jesus?

John 8:48-59

February 5, 2023

1. Rejecting Jesus results in rejecting His promise of eternal life (48-51).
 - a. The Jews respond to Jesus' accusation with accusations of their own (48).
 - i. Since Jesus accused them of being alienated from God (47), the Jews accuse Jesus of being alienated from Judaism.
 1. Jesus created Judaism, but the Jews were blind to how they had corrupted it.
 2. The Jews accused Jesus of straying from Judaism, when in fact it was they who had strayed.
 - ii. By accusing Jesus of being demon possessed, they are accusing Him and His message of being demonic.
 - b. Jesus responds with a gracious rebuke (49-51).
 - i. Since Jesus honors His Father, dishonoring Jesus dishonors God the Father (49).
 1. 5:24 "That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him."
 - ii. Though Jesus does not glorify Himself, God glorifies Jesus and judges those who do not.
 1. Philippians 2:9-11 "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
 2. Are you honoring Jesus? How are you honoring Him?
 - iii. Jesus makes it clear that to honor Him, you must honor His word (51).
 1. Rather than attack His accusers, He offers them hope.
 2. Jesus offers hope through keeping His Word (cf. 15:5).
 - a. Is Jesus promising eternal life to those who do good works?
 - b. 6:28-29 "Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."
 3. Those who honor Jesus by believing His Word will live eternally (cf. 3:16).
2. Rejecting Jesus reveals that you do not know God (52-59).
 - a. The Jews completely reject the authority of Jesus' Word (52-53).
 - i. In rejecting Jesus' Word, they reject His promise of eternal life (52).
 1. The Jews clearly saw Jesus as merely human and lesser than Abraham and the prophets.
 2. The human heart is prone to doubt, disbelieve, and reject every statement of God's Word, and we do so at our own peril.
 - ii. They Jews refused to believe Jesus' Word about Himself (53).
 1. The religious teachers of today have a very hard time honoring Jesus as God; they would rather subjugate His teachings beneath their own.
 2. Examples: church doctrines, extra-biblical prophets, extra-biblical writings, etc.
 3. The Jews are beginning to understand Jesus' claims to deity, but they are in complete disbelief.
 - b. Jesus answers their question with complete clarity (54-56).
 - i. Jesus identifies His Father as the One they claim as their God (55).
 1. Jesus' Father Honors Him.
 2. They Jews do not honor Him, therefore their claim to be the children of God is false.
 - ii. Jesus identifies their alienation from the God they claim to know (56).
 1. Those who claim to know God apart from honoring Christ are deceived.
 2. Jesus has proved that He knows God, because He kept His every word; God's Word glorifies Jesus while exposing sinner.
 - c. Jesus then declares Himself as the "I AM" (57-59)
 - i. Jesus exposes the Jews unbelievers in that which Abraham believed (57-58)).

1. Abraham rejoiced at the prospect of a coming Messiah; Abraham's hope was not in himself, but in the promised Messiah (cf. Genesis 26:4).
 2. Abraham and Sarah rejoiced in the promises made to them (cf. Genesis 17:6; 21:6).
 3. The Jews refused to believe that the Messiah would be anything other than a human king who would restore the throne of David in Israel.
 4. The Jews reject Jesus' statement in favor of what they can see physically; Jesus was in His early 30's; how could He possibly have seen Abraham? In reality, He was the preexistent Son of God (cf. 1:1).
- ii. Jesus boldly proclaims His divinity (58-59).
1. Jesus declares Himself to be the I AM, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Exodus 3:1-14).
 2. Jesus' message was immediately understood by the Jews and immediately rejected.
 - a. They took up stones to stone Him as a heretic (cf. Deuteronomy 13).
 - b. Rather than judge them, Jesus passes through them to continue His mission of their redemption (cf. 3:17)!

Conclusion:

1. Are you honoring the Son of God by believing His Word about Himself? Will you face Him one day as your Judge, or will you receive Him today as your Savior?
2. Christian, are you honoring the Son by believing and obeying His Word? Is there an area that you are struggling to yield to His control?
3. Christian, are you trying to win arguments with the lost, or are you gently pointing them to Jesus?