

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS WHOSE YOUR DADDY? (JOHN 8:31-59)

OPEN: Do you need a life verse...a scripture to live by or hang on to?

John 8:29 (NLT) – And the One who sent me is with me – He has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases Him.

- ✓ Purpose – God sent me...I'm on mission with God.
- ✓ Power – He has not deserted me, He is with me. Faithfully helping me...never alone or abandoned.
- ✓ Plan – do what pleases Him. Whenever you are not sure what to do...ask yourself: “will this please God?”
- **Vs. 30 many believed in Him**...they put their faith in Him, transferred their trust to Him...like a child they would depend on Him for forgiveness of sin and eternal life.
 - ✓ Jesus tells them what genuine salvation looks like...saving faith is not fickle but firm and settled.

❖ Let's listen to Jesus speak on this subject:

John 8:31-38

- ✓ A true child of God will desire to obey the teachings of Christ (**you will abide in my word, remain faithful to my teachings, vs. 31**)
- Genuine faith leads to action.
- As I obey, I will experience freedom from the bondage of sin.
- Before Christ, sin had a “chokehold” on us...we were slaves to our sinful nature.

- Preaching on sin is unpopular today...John MacArthur in his book, “The Vanishing Conscience” writes: “These days, everything wrong with humanity is likely to be explained as an illness, an addiction, a result of some pre-existing disability. What we used to call sin is more easily diagnosed as a whole array of disabilities. All kinds of immorality and evil conduct are now identified as symptoms of some disorder.”
 - ✓ In our culture, man is no longer called a sinner but a victim.
 - Author Charles Sykes says that America has become a nation of victims, and whining has become the national anthem.
 - Ex. A man was shot and paralyzed, while committing a burglary in NY. He sued the store owner who shot him. His attorney told the jury that the man was, first of all, a victim of society – driven to crime by economic disadvantages. “Now” his lawyer said, “he is the victim of insensitivity of the man who shot him.” Because of the store owner’s callous disregard for the thief’s plight as a victim, the criminal will be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. He is deserving of compensation.
 - The jury agreed. The store owner paid a large settlement. Several months later the same man, still in his wheelchair, was arrested while committing another armed robbery.
 - ✓ There was a FBI agent who was fired after he embezzled \$2000. He gambled it away in a single afternoon at a casino. Later, he sued arguing that his gambling addiction was a disability...so being fired was an act of illegal discrimination. He won the case!
 - ✓ The most outrageous case created the famous, “Twinkie Defense.” A San Francisco city supervisor murdered a fellow supervisor and the Mayor. He then claimed that he murdered the men because he had eaten too much junk food – especially Hostess Twinkies.
 - A jury bought the lie and produced a verdict of voluntary manslaughter, rather than murder. They ruled that the junk food resulted in “diminished mental capacity”...which reduced the killer’s sentence. He was out of prison before the Mayor’s term would have been completed.

- Victimism is the new explanation for sin. It's popular because you don't have to accept personal responsibility and it minimizes guilt...
 - ✓ Which is easier to say: I am sick or I have sinned?
 - ✓ Here is the problem...if you are sick it's not your fault...there is little you can do about it. If it is sin you can repent and with Christ's help change your ways.
 - ✓ **1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins...**not our excuses. The truth can set you free from the guilt of sin, the power of sin and the penalty of sin.
 - ✓ Jesus says to these folks...you are slaves to sin.

1) **ABRAHAM** IS OUR FATHER. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- As descendants of Abraham (Jews) argue...we are not slaves to anyone! (**vs. 33**).
 - ✓ They were proud of their heritage, the fact that Abraham (who was called: "Friend of God") was their Founding Father.
 - ✓ The book of Genesis devotes ¼ of its content to tell us about Abraham.
 - We see in him great faith...he obeyed when God said go...he believed the promises of God...was even willing to lay his son Isaac on the altar.
 - ✓ They thought themselves to be sons of Abraham; Jesus calls them slaves of sin.
- The truth is...the Jew (nationally speaking) had often verred off course and tasted the judgment of God because of sin:
 - ✓ Slaves in Egypt, during the times of Judges they were in bondage to surrounding nations, there was the Babylonian captivity, the Assyrian invasion and most recently Roman occupation.

- ✓ They weren't acting like sons they were living like slaves...(slaves have no rights, no permanent standing, no status, and no guaranteed future).
 - Yet, they persist:

John 8:39-43

- Their words didn't match their actions...they weren't acting like Abraham...you've got murder on your mind.
- They didn't appreciate Jesus' rebuke: they hit below the belt (vs. 41) **at least we are not born of fornication...we aren't illegitimate like you are...**
 - ✓ They weren't buying the news of His virgin birth.
 - ✓ It was a back handed slap toward Jesus' mother.
 - ✓ A rumor suggested that Mary had been unfaithful to Joseph during their engagement.
 - ✓ That she had sex with a Roman soldier, named Panthera and that Jesus was the result of her sin.
 - ✓ Who are you to question our ancestry lineage?
- Jesus responds: If you were truly spiritual sons of Abraham you would love me, know me, realize that I am here because God sent me (vs. 42).

2) **THE DEVIL IS YOUR FATHER.** (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

John 8:44-48

- These words are direct but not spoken hatefully.
 - ✓ I would think He spoke them with sorrow in His heart.
 - ✓ The truth is, we are all born into the wrong family when we arrive on earth...we are born with a sinful nature and we need to be reborn into the family of God.
- Jesus unmasks the devil: (vs. 44)

- ✓ He is a murderer...one who deliberately kills, he is the author of death...the reasons for every grave yard.
- ✓ He wants to destroy the human race, God's prize creation.
- ✓ He is a liar...deliberately deceives...he twists the truth and tries to get us to question what God has said...
 - You will not surely die...it's no big deal...you deserve a little fun...what's one drink...God is keeping something from you.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT) - ⁸Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

- In contrast to Satan, Jesus says...look at my life, can you accuse me of any sin (vs. 46)?
 - ✓ None of us dare issue such a challenge...esp. to people who don't like us.
 - ✓ We all have sinned but He is without sin.
 - ✓ The only thing they could come up with...you Samaritan devil (vs. 48)
 - They recall His trip through Samaria...no self-respecting Jew would go near that city...and certainly would not engage in conversation with them.
 - They hated these people...had a history of bitterness.
 - ✓ They were out of control and under the control of the devil.
- If they thought they could get Jesus to flare up in anger they were mistaken...
 - ✓ Calm and cool Jesus says...

3) **GOD IS MY FATHER.** (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

John 8:49-59

- Jesus tells us if we obey His teachings...put our faith and trust in Him, we will not have to die.
 - ✓ **Vs. 51 never see death...**incredible!
 - ✓ One day we will leave the shores of earth for eternity...we need not fear death if Jesus is our Savior.
 - ✓ One moment alive on earth, the next moment alive in Heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:8 – to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

- ✓ The people think that such a statement is absurd. (how is this possible?)
- ✓ Jesus tells them...I have control over the tomb and over time.
 - They argue...even Abraham and the prophets died (**vs. 52**) who do you think you are?
- ✓ Now Jesus is going to blow their mind.
 - Jesus tells them that Abraham was glad to see His day...
 - When did this happen? When God first called him...confirmed to him the promise of the coming seed (deliverer)...perhaps on Moriah when Abraham was to offer up his son, Isaac? We don't know? We just know he rejoiced.
- ✓ Though Abraham lived some 2000 years before Jesus... “even if you were 50...how can you say...you saw you?”
- Jesus is claiming deity...**vs. 58 before Abraham was, I AM!**
 - ✓ This is the greatest name for God known to the Jews.
 - ✓ They had upmost respect for it.

- ✓ When a scribe was copying the scriptures and they came to this name...they would put down their pen, pick up a new pen just to write the name.
- ✓ When a reader in the synagogue came to it in the second text...they wouldn't read it...they along with the congregation would bow their head in worship.

❖ Jesus was claiming to be Jehovah of the O.T.

- ✓ He existed before Abraham...before the Hebrew nation...He belonged to eternity past and eternity future...Jesus is God!

CLOSE: Whose your Daddy!

- Your earthly father got you here but he can't get you into heaven.
- The enemy Satan would love to deceive you into thinking all is well...live a good life.
- God the Father sent His Son (the Great I Am) to earth so one day we could leave earth and get to Heaven. Do you believe?

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Message Notes
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