

# The Gospel of John

Lesson #79  
The Journey  
Jim Hoffman

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## The Gospel of John

• John 8:39 They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 40 but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. 41 You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (biblical sonship is not about biology – it is about obedience) 2

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## The Gospel of John

• John 8:43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? 47 Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God. 3

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- “you cannot bear to hear my word” and “The reason why you do not hear them (Jesus’ words) is that you are not of God.”
- First Jesus says, “they can’t bear to hear his words” and then he says, “they don’t” hear the word of God”.
- As for the importance of hearing the word of God - Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

4

4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

Jesus is talking about the individual wills of those who opposed him. It’s not that they can’t hear him, they won’t! We tend to revel in the idea of “free will” and we proclaim we are captains of our own ships, all the while forgetting that prior to salvation we were slaves to sin. Jesus tells the crowd, “your will is to do your father’s desires”. To say it another way, “you want to do the will of your father, the devil”. And, as you have heard me say in the past, whenever possible, we always do the things we want to do. In the end, we have a basic “want to” problem and so we need God’s help to receive what we would never receive left to ourselves. We need prevenient grace – “the grace God provides prior to salvation, drawing all people toward salvation and enabling them to either accept or reject His offer.”

5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- You are doing the works your father did. – the Jews claimed Abraham as their spiritual father, but Jesus says that cannot be.
- In fact, he just told them their father is the devil himself – Satan was their spiritual father and their deeds exposed them as children of the devil.
- The devil was a murderer from the beginning (Genesis 3) and “murder” was exactly what the Jews had on their minds at this point.

6

6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality."
- There it is again – this slanderous accusation that Jesus was conceived in an illicit way wherein Mary was involved with, "God knows who".
- Why is it that those who are out of arguments for their point of view resort to ad hominem attacks on those who oppose them? (because they know they are wrong, but lack the integrity to admit it)

7

7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- If God were your Father, you would love me. It is self-evident – if you are born of God, you love Jesus.
- The opponents of Jesus were claiming to have God as their spiritual father through Abraham, but Jesus tells them rather plainly that is not the case.
- You cannot claim to love God and at the same time have no regard for Jesus.

8

8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

So far in this chapter we've talked about people who claim to be right with God (saved), but show few or none of the usual evidences. Last week we talked about those who "practice" and plan to sin and how they are revealing who they are by celebrating their sin. This next piece of evidence is much more basic – if you claim to know God, but do not love Jesus, you are lost. It seems that no matter how immature one may be in Christ, they will still manifest a love for Jesus. It is like one of those basic things that a Christian does, we love Jesus. It is akin to the most basic level of Bible knowledge – Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so.

9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires.”
- There is an old saying that says, “like father, like son” and old sayings often got to be old sayings because they have stood the test of time.
- The “Jews” were doing the work of the devil as they distorted Jesus’ words and attacked his character. (it is the same old Genesis 3 tactics of the devil)

10

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- There is another old saying that has hung around not because it is true, but precisely because it is a lie, and we know who wants to promote lies.
- You’ve probably heard someone say, “well, we are all God’s children”, or maybe “everyone is a child of God”.
- These are but lies from the enemy and usually offered to promote the idea that because God loves everyone, he will judge no one.

11

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- **Whoever is of God hears the words of God** – this is not true just because its in the Bible, or even because Jesus says so. It is true because hearing the Word of God is a supernatural desire that comes with the new birth.
- It is as common as the desire of a newborn baby wanting to suckle milk from his mother – no one taught it to him, that desire comes with the life of the baby.
- Even so, the desire for the Word of God comes with the new life of the child of God.

12

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**The Gospel of John**

- What does it mean to “hear the word of God?” – “Whoever is of God hears the words of God” John 8:47

- 1) to be endowed with the faculty of hearing, not deaf
- 2) to hear
- 2b) to attend to, consider what is or has been said
- 2c) to understand, perceive the sense of what is said
- 3) to hear something
- 3a) to perceive by the ear what is announced in one's presence
- 3b) to get by hearing learn
- 3c) a thing comes to one's ears, to find out, learn
- 3d) to give ear to a teaching or a teacher
- 3e) to comprehend, to understand

13

13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**The Gospel of John**

- What we are seeing in this John 8 text is that Jesus is building a test of sorts for one’s salvation.

- “everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.”
- “If God were your Father, you would love me.”
- “Whoever is of God hears (attends to) the words of God.”

14

14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**The Gospel of John**

- Later on, when John writes the letter we know as 1<sup>st</sup> John, he adds these affirmations on salvation.
- 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

15

15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

• 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil..... 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

16

16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

• 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers.

• 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.

17

17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

• John 8:48 The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" 49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. 50 Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. 51 Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." 52 The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'

18

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

• John 8:53 Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" 54 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.' 55 But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad."

19

19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

• John 8:57 So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." (Ego-I-Me 'phonetic')

• This is like saying Lassie barks. To say, "I am" is to say, "God is". (noun/verb)

• Jesus reports what any good witness would do – he tells what he saw and heard when he witnessed Abraham seeing the future coming of Messiah.

20

20

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

• Genesis 12:3 "I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

• Abraham saw in Isaac (his seed) what God would do, not just for the Jew, who was not even on Abraham's radar, but for the whole world.

• Isaac confirmed the work of God through Abraham on Mount Moriah in Genesis 22.

21

21

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

On Mount Moriah - Isaac represented to Abraham the "seed" through which God would fulfill his promise. The miraculous birth of Isaac, his unquestioning trust in his father, his willingness to become a sacrifice to fulfill the command of God, and his deliverance from certain death all seem to point forward to the coming incarnation, death, and resurrection of the promised Seed, Jesus (see Ge 22:1-18; Heb 11:17-19).

22

22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- John 8:59 So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.
- His opponents would claim authority to put him to death from Leviticus 16, and since they were the "scholars" could have convinced others to help them.
- In two words John tells us of a miracle, "hid himself" – it seems he made himself invisible to his enemies and just casually exited.

23

23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

- Remember this one – Luke 4:29 And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. 30 But passing through their midst, he went away.

24

24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### The Gospel of John

I am not as amazed that Jesus could conceal himself as I am that the Jews could so cold-heartedly conclude that the one who was obviously the Author of Life should be executed. Jesus saw it coming way before they did. They hated Jesus for the threat that he was to them, but even they may have been amazed at how quickly they could condemn someone for telling them the truth. Remember they are of their father, the devil, and therefore they could not abide the truth. The truth can make our spiritual enemies desperate and unpredictable. Light can cause even the spiritually blind to see clearly with the result being conversion or perversion. Truly, there is none so blind as those who will not see.

25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Gospel of John

Oh, God cause those in our lives who are willfully blind to the gospel to see what is so obvious to anyone with an open mind. If they are rejecting you, cause their hearts to open then bend their knee to you. Release them from the clutches of the devil and set them free. May the scales fall from their eyes so that they may see and believe you, the embodiment of truth. Amen.

26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Questions?

27

27

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---