



How Jesus presses for a decisive response from us.
John 8:44-59

⁴⁴You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! ⁴⁶Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

⁴⁸The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?" ⁴⁹"I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death." ⁵²At this they exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

⁵⁴Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. ⁵⁵Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

⁵⁷"You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" ⁵⁸"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" ⁵⁹At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

Why does Jesus say things like “You belong to your father, the devil,”?

I. Jesus is being merciful in confronting them.

Because it is a mercy to strip people enslaved to some form of religious deception.

And so the Jewish leaders respond:

⁴⁸The Jews answered him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?”

Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. ²³All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?” ²⁴But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”
Matthew 12:22-28

Notice Jesus’ response- “I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor my Father and you dishonor me.”
John 8:49

“He who doesn’t honor the Son doesn’t honor the Father who sent Him.” John 5:23

Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me.”
John 8:42

II. Jesus work is to do the will of his Father

I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.
John 8:50

Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. ⁷But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. ... (Jesus) humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death—death on a cross.

Philippians 2:6-8

I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

John 17:4,5

III. Jesus sets us free from death

“I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” John 8:51

“Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death.

John 8:52

IV. Jesus, the promised seed of Abraham

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day.”

John 8:56

Genesis 12, is where we first hear about Abraham. God makes a promise of a coming seed. His son *Issac* begins that lineage.

V. Jesus is the great “I am”.

⁵⁷“You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!”

⁵⁸“Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “**before Abraham was born, I am!**”

John 8:57,58

At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.
John 8:59

(Moses) “If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what should I tell them?”

¹⁴God replied to Moses, “I am who I am. Say this to the people of Israel: I am has sent me to you.”
Exodus 3:13,14

The “***I am***” in Hebrew in Exodus 3:14 is the four consonants ***YHWH***, also known as the **tetragrammaton**.

VI. Jesus speaks to us as He did to them.

³⁴“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn “a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

³⁶a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ ³⁷“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Matthew 10:34-37