

# *The Gospel of John*

## 8:48-59

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.  
As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

✠ **John 8:48** *Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"*

Last week we read of Jesus telling the Jews that they were not from God, as they thought they were. But that they were from their father, satan.  
I'm sure this didn't make them very happy, and in return to the truth that Jesus spoke to them, they retaliated with, *"Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"*

You're a half-breed and you are possessed by a demon. Now that's a real intelligent come back isn't it? Sometimes when we hear the truth, we don't like it and in retaliation we start telling lies about others, even right to their face just as the Jews were doing here.

Jesus answered them.

✠ **John 8:49-51** *Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges. Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."*

Jesus tells them that He is not demon possessed, but that the things that He speaks of, are to honor God, and because He was honoring God they dishonored Him.

The things we do are to please God. Our witness to others about Jesus, and helping others, especially those who the world turns their backs on. In response they show us no honor for the good we do, nor do they show honor to God whom we serve. If a rock musician or actor wants to give to a charity, the world is quick to point out the good they are doing. But when Christians do the same thing, they think that we are just crazy.

But no matter what the world thinks, we do it to honor God, and its God who judges the motives behind what anyone does, whether Christian or not.

Then Jesus throws them for a loop with this next statement, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."*

Everyone knows that we all will die someday, so what was Jesus talking about? The Jews had no idea.

Jews always told them of spiritual things, but they were to focused on the physical to understand it.

✎ **John 8:52-53** *Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Whom do You make Yourself out to be?"*

Ok Jesus, now we know you are crazy, because Abraham and the prophets are all dead. Are your words so great, greater then Abraham's and the prophets that you think that by listening to you, that no one will ever die? Who do you think that you are anyway? At least that's what they were saying here.

Remember Jesus said, ***"I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."*** Matt 22:32

✎ **John 8:54-56** *Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."*

So many people seek honor, and they will do all sorts of things to obtain it. They make sure that no matter what good things they may do, that everyone sees and knows about it. Jesus said:

✎ **Matt 6:1-4** *Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.*

*"Yea, but what about all the things Jesus did, wasn't He tooting His own horn?"*

Jesus did what He was instructed to do by God, and He didn't do it to receive honor, but rather so God would be honored. ***"If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me and I do not seek My own glory"*** Verses 54 & 50

Jesus did to honor God.

✎ *of whom you say that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him.*

Jesus now tells them plainly that the one He is proclaiming as His Father, is none other than the God whom they claimed to serve.

Jesus knows that so many people will claim to believe in God, but how many can really say that He is their God?

So many will say that He is their God, but the truth is that He is not their God, if He was then they would listen to Him and believe in Jesus.

It is impossible to serve God and not believe and serve Jesus also.

*✠ And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.*

Jesus kept God's word and proclaimed it to everyone. He could have said that He was just kidding and that He didn't really know God, but then He would have committed sin by lying, and Jesus never lied nor sinned.

By rejecting Jesus, you are not obeying God.

*✠ Matt 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"*

Very plainly God says right here to listen to Jesus, and by rejecting Him and His teachings, you are disobeying God!

*✠ "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."*

So when did Abraham See Jesus' day?

*✠ Gen 14:18-20 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.*

*✠ Heb 7:1-3 (NLT) This Melchizedek was king of the city of Salem and also a priest of God Most High. When Abraham was returning home after winning a great battle against many kings, Melchizedek met him and blessed him. Then Abraham took a tenth of all he had won in the battle and gave it to Melchizedek. His name means "king of justice." He is also "king of peace" because Salem means "peace." There is no record of his father or mother or any of his ancestors--no beginning or end to his life. He remains a priest forever, resembling the Son of God.*

King Melchizedek is believed to be what is called a Christaphoney (I think I spelled it right) which means that there were times when Jesus came to this earth before His birth. There are several cases of this throughout the Old Testament.

† **Josh 5:13-15** *And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" Then the Commander of the LORD s army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.*

This is just one case, but as I said, there are several others.

✠ **John 8:57** *Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"*

Come on Jesus, some of us are over 50 years old and we haven't seen Abraham, how could you have seen him if you are younger than us?  
Jesus' next statement and answer will blow their minds.

✠ **John 8:58** *Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."*

*"Jesus never claimed to be God"*

A lot of cults and people say this, but they may never have read or understood this verse. But the Jews did.

† **Ex 3:13-14** *Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "*

These are the exact same words Jesus spoke to the Jews. A statement no man, woman, child or even a so-called god could ever claim. This is the ultimate statement. The Jews knew this and so should the whole world.

† **Rev 1:8** *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

† **Rev 22:13** *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."*

Jesus said these words at the beginning of the book of Revelation and at the end. Whether you proclaim it now, or in heaven, you will bow to Jesus.

† **Romans 14:11** *For it is written:  
"As I live, says the LORD,  
Every knee shall bow to Me,  
And every tongue shall confess to God."*

It's better to do it now, because if you refuse to now, you will in heaven, right before you are cast into hell. You don't think you will ever bow to Jesus and claim Him as Lord of lords, and King of kings? When you see me in heaven then tell me that after you see the awesomeness of God and Jesus in heaven.

The Jews knew what Jesus was saying and they refused to bow to Him, but instead they did the following.

✠ **John 8:59** *Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.*

They figured that Jesus was speaking blasphemy, and according to law He was to be stoned for claiming to be God. But it wasn't blasphemy, Jesus had been telling them this for 8 chapters and for about three years now, but they just never got it. So they wanted to stone Jesus, but He hid Himself, which means He "escaped without notice". Jesus leaves the temple and they don't even realize it.

There are dead churches out there that proclaim the name of Jesus, but He has left them and they don't even know it. Here is what they look like.

† **Rev 3:1-6** *"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

There is an entire study just in these short six verses, and there are studies here on the book of Revelation, where you can learn about this church, along with the other churches Jesus spoke to in the book of Revelation.

But what it all boils down to is, unbelief in Jesus Christ and His power. Anyone can have a cross, stained glass windows, pews, hymnals, and even bibles in a building, but unless Jesus is there, they are nothing more than a dead church.

Is Jesus in your church?

Is He in your home?

Is He in your life?

I pray that you have answered yes to each one of these. If not, then today it may be time to change your answer!

Well we finally made it through another chapter in the book of John.

Next week, we will start chapter 9, which has one of my favorite stories in it. In fact, I am writing a book based upon this man in chapter 9.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy, and may you be alive as Jesus is alive in you!