

The Gospel of John: Fathers & Sons

John 8:12-59

Jesus & His Father (v. 12-30)

- Jesus returns to the Temple to teach during the Feast of Tabernacles
 - During the Festival, four huge lamps in the court of women representing the pillar of fire that guided the Israelites in the wilderness
 - Jesus uses this imagery to make His proclamation: “I AM the Light of the World”
- His teaching is interrupted by the Pharisees who challenge Him, claiming that He must produce another trustworthy witness to testify if what He says is true
 - This reflects Jesus’ own words to them early (5:31)
- Jesus points to His Father as His second witness
 - When they judge by human standards, we fail to see Jesus for who He is
 - Because they don’t truly know God, they fail to recognize Him in His Son
- Jesus repeatedly warns that without faith in Him, they will die in their sins
 - A truth that will become clearer when the Son of Man has been lifted up (crucified)

Whose Children? (v. 31-47)

- Jesus uses the imagery of family to show the need for faith in Him
 - We are all slaves to sin
 - Slaves are not part of the family
 - Jesus comes to set us free to be adopted into God’s family
- He points out that though His opponents are biologically Abraham's descendants:
 - They are **not** acting like Abraham because of their lack of faith
 - They are **not** acting like children of God because of their spiritual blindness & deafness
 - They are acting like the Devil because they lie like him & want to murder Jesus

Who Do You Think You Are? (v. 48-59)

- Jesus’ opponents accuse Jesus of being a Samaritan & demon-possessed because of His claims
- He again offers eternal life through faith in Him
- They argue that since Abraham & the prophets died, He is claiming to be greater than them
- He insists that Abraham looked forward in faith to the day of Jesus’ coming
 - And claims to not only to be older than Abraham, but to be “I AM”
 - The covenantal name of God
- Their response is to try to stone Him for blasphemy, but He leaves before they can

So What?

- Have we put our trust in Jesus, turning us from slaves to sin into adopted children of God?
- Whose child does our behavior show us to be?

Meditation Verse: John 8:36

Next Week: John 9:1-41