

John Ch 8:21-32

“Who Is Jesus”

We’ve divided Ch 8 into 4 primary segments. and If you were here last week then perhaps you penned them into your margin, *accusation, anticipation, clarification, and revelation*; and we’re using these words to sort of break down the overall meal of Ch 8 into bite size pieces that can chew on and take in that we might be nourished by them as we seek to absorb into our innermost being all that the Lord would have us to take in and soak up.

Last time we took the time to consider these *accusations* that the religious leaders were bringing to and against the Lord, both of this woman who was caught in adultery, and then also against the Lord Himself as they sought to place Him in a no win situation with a loaded question that was designed to entrap Him and entangle Him. They were seeking to derail, and devalue, and dismantle His ministry that He might be disqualified in the eyes of the people. But of course the Lord turned the situation upon them and actually laid accusation against *them* so that one by one, being convicted by their own conscience they all dropped their rocks with which they were prepared to stone this woman, and went home.

Then the only One left there who was qualified to condemn her didn’t do it, because Jesus didn’t come to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. and So that woman had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ that changed her life forever. and Such is the case with everyone of us who have found ourselves humiliated, and embarrassed, thrown down as it were at the feet of Jesus just ashamed of where we’ve been and what we’ve done. and Jesus picks us up, not under the guise of condemnation, but rather liberation, He saves us, sets us free and sends us out, He gives us the commission, “Go, and sin no more. People have known what you’ve been all about up until this point; show them what you’re about from this point forward. Let your light so shine in such a way that people now see your *good* works (they’ve seen your wicked works) now let them see your righteous works, that they might glorify your Father who is in Heaven, go and sin no more.” and That will always be the results of coming to know Jesus Christ in a personal way, you won’t be engaging in those things that alienated you from Him in the 1st place, that’s why Jesus said that those who follow Him shall not walk in darkness. If you’re following Jesus Christ you’re going to be hanging out in the light, letting the light of Jesus Christ shine through you, not engaging in those dark doings that you once took part in, sin won’t be the pattern of the persons life who knows and walks with Jesus Christ

That’s what Jesus was telling us in vs 12 when He said, (read). He’d just shined light upon the blackness of the hearts of this woman’s accusers, brought her *out* of darkness and into the light, and so He just said straight up, “I am the light of the world, and if you want to have the light of life, you need to follow Me.”

Well, these guys who were always looking for some sorta technicality upon which to discredit Jesus were right back on Him. Accusing Him of bearing false witness because He bore witness of Himself, (in that He was the light of the world) rather than having at least 2 to establish the matter as the law said. and So Jesus conceded to the fact that *He* did bear witness of Himself, and then He explained to them the reality of the Father's witness upon His life as well (which makes 2). Not only audibly upon His baptism and at the Mt of Transfiguration, but then also in the volume of the book, all of God's word is a testimony about, or pointing to, and a witness of Jesus Christ It's all written of Him from cover to cover.

This is where we left off, in the midst of this ch here in Vs 20 which finished up our 1st division, "Accusation."

Vs 21 begins to take us into this, "Anticipation" that Jesus had of returning to His Father, remember the cross is only about 6 months away, and so its reality is increasingly in the heart and mind of our Lord. and So He begins here to speak about this His *anticipation*. Not only for Him personally, but also what He anticipates for them should they refuse to place their trust and their faith in Him. and We'll finish up today with a little bit of *clarification* in vs 31-32. So let's read vs 21-32 and then we'll come back and begin to dissect, and look into them.

Vs 21-36

Back in vs 21 we see the 1st hint in this ch of Jesus' anticipation of His going away. and Of course the means of His going away would be through the cross, His death, resurrection and ascension whereby He would ascend into Heaven ultimately finding His place at the right hand of the Father where He lives to make intercession for you and for me continually (the bible says).

He says, "I'm going away" and when He's talking about them seeking Him, the point is that they'll be looking for their Messiah, and He's saying, "That's Me, but you're not willing to come to Me so you'll die in your sin. and Where I go you cannot come." and He's already said this once to them back in Ch 7, but this is the heart of the Lord, He just keeps extending Himself to them, giving them opportunity after opportunity to turn to Him and believe *in* Him. God's not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. The bible says, "*Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.*" Isa 55:6 and Here He is right there near to them, right in front of their faces and yet instead of opening up to Him they're arguing with Him. Wasting their opportunity for everlasting life by arguing with the Lord rather than simply opening up to the Lord. and Tell me that's not the way it is even today, people want to argue, and wrestle, and contend with the Lord and they just kick against His invitation of eternal life. They'd rather find some way to grind *on* Him, rather than just give in *to* Him.

He's trying to communicate to them this sense of urgency. You don't have forever to make up your mind about Jesus Christ. In fact there's a very limited time that we're all bound by and there'll come a time when it'll be too late. The bible teaches us that life is but a vapor; God's Spirit won't always strive with man. and Even if you live out the fullness of your days (of which there's no guarantee we'll make it home today) the fact is that in the context of eternity, life is short. and When you breathe your last you don't get a second chance. The opportunity to place your faith in Jesus will slip from your hands just as sure as death itself and at that point though you'll want to be with Him then, you'll die in your sins, and where He is, you can't go.

Why, because sin separates us from God. We read in Isaiah, "*Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you.*" Isa 59:1-2 The moment that Adam partook of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil his sin caused an immediate breach between God and man, because God is perfect and holy, and yet man is sinful and wicked. and It's like that sin became a part of the very genetic fiber of man, it's woven into the DNA or something, it's apart of our very nature. Even from conception sin is present in our beings. That's what David was talking about when he said, "*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.*" Ps 51:5 He wasn't saying that his mom was out there fooling around in sin and got pregnant, but that sin was present the moment conception took place, there was iniquity already in him the moment he was brought forth from the womb. The 1st time a baby sins isn't what makes him a sinner, he's already a sinner and when he sins he only proves out the nature that was already there.

That's why Jesus Christ came to this earth, to deal with and remedy the sin issue, that God and man might have a relationship that's personal and loving once again. Because if by one man's disobedience all can be condemned under sin, then how much more by one Man's obedience can all be made righteous? and This is Paul's whole premise in Rom Ch 5, and he says there "*Therefore, as through one man's offense (speaking of Adam) judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act (speaking of Jesus) the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.*" Rom 5:18-19 But instead of taking advantage of the opportunity these guys have in Jesus Christ they just argue with Him and look to find fault in Him. They're all, "What's He going to do kill Himself? He's talking about going away, and us not being able to follow, sounds like premeditated suicide." and They were right about Him dying, but not because He would take His life, but because He would give His life at their hands for the sins of the world.

Here in vs 23 Jesus tries to share with them the reason that they can't go where He's going to be. and The reason that they're going to be in 2 different places is because they have 2 different origins, which make for 2 different natures. The bible says that by nature we're the children of wrath, because of the sin nature that we've inherited through Adam. But Jesus by nature *isn't* a child of wrath; He's the Son of God. and He tells them very clearly here that He's not *of* the earth but rather He's been sent *to* the earth, and He'll return where He came from. That's why when we give our hearts and our lives to Christ we're given a new nature, and *our* citizenship isn't of this world, remember in the world but not of the world.

Paul the apostle in his letter to the Philippian church said, *“For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame -- who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,”* Phil 3:18-20 You see there's 2 different natures in view there, an earthly nature whose end is destruction, and a heavenly nature that awaits it's home in Heaven. That's part of that which bears witness in your soul that you're saved, you no longer set your affections on the things of the earth but on things above, when it's all said and done you're looking forward to seeing Jesus Christ face to face and that where He is there you may be also. But if you're not only in the world but you're also of the world and you've never been taken out of the world by coming to Jesus Christ then you have an earthly nature, and this corruption must put on incorruption is he's to inherit eternal life.

If I don't have a heavenly nature, then I don't have a heavenly destination, but the Heavenly nature is available to anyone who will but come to Jesus Christ and surrender to Him. But so many won't do that, these guys, wouldn't do that. and So Jesus says to them in vs 24.

Vs24

Underline the last ½ of that vs in your bible. This is what it all comes down to, when it's all said and done (Jesus is just shooting straight with us here alleviating any opportunity for confusion). “If you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins.” Take your pen and mark out that word, “He” there, it's not there in the Greek, it was added by the translators for clarification, but instead it added confusion. Jesus is standing there claiming deity, taking upon Himself the very name of God that Moses received at the burning bush, “I AM that I AM” and when push comes to shove this is where it all comes down. If you do not believe that Jesus is God, you will die in your sins. The huge door of salvation swings open upon this seemingly small yet incredibly detailed hinge. and This is what hurls condemnation upon every cult that's ever existed, and I'm not seeking to slam any person, or the sincerity with which they approach their religion.

But Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Muslims, Buddhists and on down the list we could go, this is what separates the true from the false, the genuine article from the counterfeit. It's not enough to consent to the fact that Jesus was a wonderful teacher, or a great Guru, or even simply the Son of God. Jesus said, "If you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins." There are plenty of cults that will say, "Yeah, we believe the Jesus was the Son of God, God created Him 1st." Now you've diminished His deity, because you're saying He's not God, He's a created being, no more divine than perhaps an angel. In fact there are those who say that's exactly what Jesus is, an angel, Michael, or even Lucifer's brother, so much for God's "only" begotten Son." But to diminish His deity in anyway is to deny His reality.

When, Isaac was climbing Mt Moriah with Ab and asked his dad where the sacrifice was, it was there that Ab uttered that prophecy saying, "God will provide Himself the Lamb for Sacrifice." Again the translators confuse that because in many versions it says God will provide "for" Himself, but in the Hebrew the word "for" isn't there. He's says, "God will provide Himself" and he mentions a lamb, but caught in the thicket was a ram. Why? Because the Lamb would come nearly 2,000 yrs later in the person of Jesus Christ who would climb that same Mt now called Calvary and be the *Lamb* of sacrifice. and So it's a non-negotiable necessity if you're to be a born again believer to understand that Jesus is no less God, than is the Father, than is the Holy Spirit. It wasn't something other than God who was bridging the gap between God and man, the mediator Christ Jesus *is* God, He is the I AM. That's why the bible says that, "*God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,*" 2 Cor 5:19 and So to say, "Well it wasn't really God, it was God's Son" is to mock not only the word of God but God Himself.

Now if you're going to ask me to explain the mystery of the Godhead and how Jesus could be fully God, and how the Father is fully God and the Spirit if fully God, you're in for a real let down because I don't get it. I just believe it, with out faith it's impossible to please God. That's why Paul said, "*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.*" 1 Tim 3:16 You see there's no question that it's a great mystery, with out controversy *great* is the mystery, but God was manifest in the flesh, he didn't say, "Well it wasn't really God, it was His boy." No, it was God in the flesh, believed on in the world, preached among the gentiles and received up in glory.

For anyone to not place their full faith in this fact, to believe that Jesus Christ is the I Am, than by their own volition they've chosen to die in their sins and spend eternity separated from God in hell. That's why we gather week to week to share the hope that's in Jesus Christ because He made it real clear that He exclusively is the door that leads to everlasting life. Earlier John wrote, "*He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*" John 3:36 Peter put it like this, "*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*" Acts 4:12

You see there's only 2 ways to die, in your sins, or in Him, if you die in Him it means rest from labors and an everlasting blessing (Rev 14:13). But to die in your sins means everlasting torment in separation from Him where you'll have *no rest* day or night forever and ever.

Now before we move on I want you to see that word, "If," it's a choice, you can choose to believe in Jesus Christ fully God, fully man, and His sacrifice for your sin. Or you can choose to deny Him, and so be denied by Him on that day.

Now here they get all bent out of shape, they want Him to tell them, "He is ___ who?" They knew what He was talking about when He said, "I Am," but they didn't want to go there, and so they said, "What are you talking about here, who are you?"

Vs 25

He's never sought to hide from them the reality of who He is and we've seen it all throughout this epistle.

Vs26-27

This is worth noting here and then we'll move on. These guys were so full of hypocrisy, hard heartedness and self imposed righteousness, and Jesus says, "I could say so much about you, and every bit of it would be true, I could tear *into* you and make fools *of* you, but I only speak the things which the Father prompts Me to, or lays on My heart." Why do I make note of that?

Because the Father didn't lay it on Jesus' heart to rail *on* these guys, or tear *into* these guys even though what He could've said would've been true. and Can I say that the Father will never lay it on your heart to rail on somebody, or tear into somebody either. The bible says, "*All the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!*" Gal 5:14-15 In other words don't go tearing into people, and railing on people or you'll eat each other up, you'll be consumed, it's not of the Father, it's of the flesh.

Vs28-29

Laying down His life for the sin of the world is an act of His obedience to the Father, and laying your life down, and placing your agenda aside, and giving others the priority in your life is an act of your obedience, and my obedience to Jesus Christ Even as He said if we want to come after Him we have to deny ourselves, take up our cross, (that instrument which speaks of death to self and self will) and follow Him, walk in His footsteps, laying down our lives for others.

He's placing all of His eggs in the basket of His death, burial and resurrection to prove the veracity of who He is, the sign of the prophet Jonah. This "lifting up" is in reference to the cross; His glorification would be through His humiliation. He says once you've seen the sky blackened, the graves opened, the veil in the temple torn from top to bottom, once you've seen the reality of the resurrection, then you'll know the facts, you may not *receive* the facts, but you won't be able to deny them. But many of them did receive them Acts 6:7 tells us, "*Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*"

Real quick, check out this radical statement in vs 29, "I always do those things that please Him." This is a claim of perfect obedience, and moral perfection as by the word and will of God! I wish that I could just look back over 1 day and rest assured that in just that day that every detail of my life, my thoughts, and my interaction with people was pleasing to God. Much less anticipating my tomorrow, Jesus said, "I always please the Father." Not only so far have I been pleasing to Him, but the rest of My physical life (I'll tell ya right now) will be in perfect submission to Him. and The Father testified of that fact when He uttered audibly from Heaven at Jesus' Baptism, "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" Matt 3:17 and Notice this as a testimony of the purity and integrity of Jesus' life

Vs30

Or to understand that another way, as they considered His words, they had to concede to the fact that they couldn't think of one thing throughout His entire life that ever set Him at odds with the Word of God. He didn't bully His little brothers as a kid, or pull some little girls hair on the playground, always did business right as a carpenter, or whatever, they couldn't pin anything on Him except upright integrity, and so some believed right there. and That quickly the passed from death to life, and so notice Jesus immediately turned His attention to these new believers and began to disciple them.

Vs31

Immediately Jesus begins to bring clarification and give practical application as to what it means to be His disciple and the fruit of truly being born again. and In short it's a love *for*, and a desire to be *in* God's Word. It's not just coming to church, but its being disciplined *in* and taking heed *to*, and making a priority *of* the word of God. So I suppose the litmus test for being a disciple, if you want to know if you're a disciple of Jesus Christ the question is do you spend time in His word on your own time in some form a consistent basis? We're not talking here about legalism, but simply the lifestyle of the disciple of Jesus Christ If you think that you know the Lord, yet you never spend any time in your bible in the privacy of your own home, then you better take inventory and allow the Lord to search your heart and show you where you're really at. and If you need to renew that 1st love relationship because you just don't have a heart for His word, then do it.

You see, mark that word “abide.” We’re speaking here of an active continuance. and I want you to see that Jesus’ command is to abide in “His” word, He doesn’t say, “God’s Word.” He places His word on par with God’s Word. If Jesus weren’t God this would be all but blasphemy, saying that we needed to listen to Him and do what He says as opposed to what the scripture says, but the fact is His word *is* scripture because He *is* God.

Vs32

and Of course this vs is in direct reference and in the context of vs 31 speaking of the words of Jesus being truth, or to understand it in a broader sense, the Word of God makes one free. Sets them free from the bondage of sin by leading them to Jesus Christ and as we’ll see next time, if the Son sets you free, you’ll be free indeed, and again He frees you by His Word. The bible says, “*How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*” Ps 119:9 and Finally “*And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts.*” Ps 119:45

Who is Jesus? He is the Alpha, the Omega, the Beginning and The End; The I Am that I Am, Almighty God come in the flesh to reconcile the world to Himself.

If you know the truth you won’t be snared by the lie, and the truth is found in the Word of God, study it, make priority of it, give heed to it, let it correct you, and protect you and change your life.

Perhaps you’re here today and you don’t know Jesus Christ in a personal way, you’ve never invited Jesus into your heart or into your life, you haven’t let the word of God have its way in your life and today is the day of salvation for you. God is calling to come out of the world, (to repent) to let go of those things that have been holding you back *from* Him in order that you might take hold *of* Him, believe *in* Him, and surrender *to* Him. That you might be forgiven of your sin and washed white as snow as by the blood of Jesus Christ If God is seeking to reconcile you to Himself today, let me encourage you to give in, and give your life to Jesus Christ