

UPPER ROOM ADULT BIBLE STUDY

"The Gospel of John"

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Lesson 36: John 8:39 - 9:1-41 "Who's Your Daddy?" (Part 2)

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.

- a. **"Abraham is our father."** – At issue here was the question of the need for repentance and faith for salvation versus their birthright as "children of Abraham." If the birthright was secure, and the inheritance of a part in God's kingdom was guaranteed – why would repentance and faith in Jesus be needed? Would not repentance and faith be needed only for non-Jews or "sinners?"
- b. **"This is not what Abraham did."** – Jesus redefines what being an "offspring of Abraham" really is: not by blood, but by faith. Abraham did not seek to kill a messenger from God, who spoke His truth to him.

¹ **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. ⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.**

"You are doing the works your father did." – Jesus is about to shift the confrontation to speak of a different "father."

"you cannot bear to hear My word." – So entrenched were the Jewish authorities in their way of thinking, and whatever security they found in it, they rejected Jesus and His teaching. The irony is, many of the people who heard Jesus teach, but were not as highly educated as the scribes and Pharisees, did in fact believe in Jesus.

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.**

- a. **"your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires."** – Harsh words from Jesus regarding the unbelieving scribes and Pharisees! In their rejection of Jesus as the Son of God, they served a different father: the devil. He was the root of their ongoing "will (desire)" to reject Jesus, and influence others to do the same!
- b. **"there is no truth in him."** – "Truth" = God's truth, i.e. the Word. Jesus distinguishes between having a working knowledge of God's Word AND trusting in the Word as 'God's unchanging Truth.'

- a. **Matthew 4:5-6.** *Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,*
"He will command his angels concerning you," and
"On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."
- c. **was a murderer from the beginning** – In the Garden of Eden, the devil was the bringer of death: physical, spiritual, and relational to all mankind.
- d. **"there is no truth in him...he is a liar and the father of lies."** – the devil was/is truly the father of deception – His strategy of deception began with Adam and Eve.
- a. **Genesis 3:1-5.** *He (Satan) said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You^a shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*
- i. **"Did God actually say"** – casting doubt on God's Word
- ii. **"You will surely not die"** – contradicting God's Word, thereby, removing it as the authority It is!
- iii. **"your eyes will be opened, and you will be"** – reinterpreting God's Word to say what we want it to say.
- b. **1 Peter 5:8.** *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

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."

- a. **"Whoever is of God hears the words...you are not of God."** – true, inward hearing requires faith, which believes, and responds in obedience. Their refusal to believe indicates that they are not "of God."

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."

- a. **"You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"** – Enraged, the Jewish authorities insult Jesus by calling Him a "Samaritan" and accusing Him of being demonic.
- b. **"if anyone keeps my word..."** – "keeps" = "guards or protects."
- a. Shepherds, out in the fields, would construct a "keep," which was a temporary corral made of sticks and thorny bushes. It served to contain

the sheep, keeping them from wandering away, as well as, protecting them from predators.

- b. **Question:** In what ways do believers need to “keep/guard” God’s Word in their lives?
- c. **“he will never see death.”** – staying in faith defeats eternal death, even though temporal death eventually occurs.

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.’” 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.’”^[b] 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.” ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”^[c] ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

- a. **“It is My Father who glories Me.”** – God, the Father, gloried Jesus when He raised Him from the dead; a fact, which the Jewish authorities sought to discredit!
- b. **“But you have not known Him. I know Him.”** – “know” = intimate relationship of faith, trust, and love.
- c. **“before Abraham was, I am.”** – Jesus declares Himself to be God; pre-existent, before Abraham lived. Declaring equality with God was considered blasphemous by the Jews.
- d. **“So, they picked up stones...but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.”** – Further enraged by Jesus’ claim of divinity, they sought to kill Him on the spot!