

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 26

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Lesson 26 Conflict over The Identity of Jesus

Background:

In the previous lesson Jesus described Himself as the "Light of the World." The religious leaders believed that His testimony was false. He accused them of not knowing His Father. This theme continues in chapter 8 and culminates with the religious leaders attempting to stone Jesus.

Scripture Passage

Read: [John 8:21-59](#)

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Quote:

"If the central point of today's passage is proper identification of Jesus, the central test for us is our response. Jesus tells us that our response has significant consequences. If we reject Him, our lot is continued slavery to sin and ultimate death in those sins (vv. 21, 24) However, if we embrace Him and His Word, we are promised freedom and relationship with God as His children (vv. 31-36.) Pause today to ask God for a proper identification of Jesus and a proper response to this God-made-flesh"

[Today in the Word - Moody Bible Institute.](#)

Question:

What does "continued slavery to sin" mean?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [John 8:21-30](#).

Dispute Over Who Jesus Is

1. Where do you think Jesus was planning to go? What did the religious leaders think Jesus meant? (21-22)

2. How would you state verse 23 in your own words? What does Jesus say will happen to those who do not "believe that I am he."

3. In verses 25-26 the discussion about Jesus' identity continues. However, in verse 28 Jesus tells the religious that they "will know." What will they know and when?

4. The Jewish leaders were struggling to believe who Jesus was. Did anyone understand and believe?

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Dispute Over Whose Children Jesus' Opponents Are

[Read John 8:31-47](#)

5. What did Jesus say to those who believed Him? How can truth set you free?

6. How does Jesus describe slavery? What does He accuse the religious leaders of trying to do to Him? Where does Jesus say freedom comes from?

7. The religious leaders continue to refer to Abraham – why do you think they did that? Jesus said that they should do what Abraham did. What did Abraham do? Compare [Genesis 15:6](#); [Romans 4:3](#)

8. In the previous verses the religious leaders claimed that Abraham was their father. Now who do they claim is their Father? Is this statement true? What does it tell you about their attitude?

9. What does Jesus say they would do if God really was their Father? Who does Jesus say is their father? (42-45)

10. What does Jesus say is the reason they “do not hear”? How can we know if we are listening to God and not the devil?

Jesus' Claims About Himself [John 8:48-59](#)

11. What do the Jewish leaders accuse Jesus of now? How might you feel if you were Jesus? Have you ever been falsely accused? How did you respond?

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12. Answer the following True or False

- Jesus said "I am seeking glory for myself."
- Jesus said "Whoever obeys my word will live forever."
- Jesus said "Before Abraham was, I am!"

Discuss:

Share which of the following is most meaningful to you today and why.

- "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- "Whoever belongs to God hears what God says."
- "Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death."
- "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

Suggested Prayer: *Father in Heaven, we thank you for your Word which shows us so clearly who Jesus is. Help us to be faithful in telling others the good news about Him. Prevent us from being deceived by the lies of the enemy. Teach us the truth by your Holy Spirit and show us the right path. In Christ's name we ask this. Amen.*

For Further Reading:

[5 Attitudes Jesus Condemned in the Pharisees.](#)

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