Abraham Rejoiced to See This June 23, 2019

*John 8:48-59 Series: The Saviour who Frees You*

[Jesus] was crucified because he said he was the Son of God. So, he either, in my view, was the Son of God, or he was nuts. - Bono

Intro: Do we really all worship the same God?

1. Do you worship the God who offers salvation through faith in Jesus alone?
2. Jesus offers a pardon from sin’s death penalty.

v. 51 *Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.*

1. Eternal life comes through faith in Jesus.

John 5:24 *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”*

1. Eternal life comes through faith in Jesus alone.

John 14:6 *Jesus said …, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

* Why is the statement, “We all worship the same God,” so popular in our society today? What’s wrong with it?
* How is Jesus’ message different from other religions? Is this a minor difference or a fundamental difference? Why?
* According to John 14:6, can someone worship the God of the Bible without putting their trust in Jesus?

1. Do you worship the God who testifies that Jesus is more than a prophet?
2. Most people reject Jesus’ claims as crazy.

v. 48 *The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?”*

v. 52 *The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon!”*

v. 53 *Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died!*

1. What you decide about Jesus’ identity is everything.

v. 53 *Who do you make yourself out to be?*

1. God the Father has tried to convince us of Jesus’ claims.

v. 50 *Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge.*

v. 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.’”*

Matthew 3:17 … *and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”*

Matthew 17:5 *He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”*

* Why did Jesus’ opponents wonder whether He might be possessed by a demon? i.e. What was He was saying that they found so outlandish?
* Why is a person’s evaluation of Jesus’ identity more important than whether they ‘worship God’ or try to follow the Bible’s moral teachings?
* What are some of the ways that the Father tried to convince the world of Jesus’ claims?

1. Do you worship Jesus as the divine I AM?
2. Prophets point to God, Jesus pointed to Himself.

v. 51 *if anyone keeps my word*

v. 56 *Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.*

1. Jesus claims to be God.

v. 58 *Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”*

Exodus 3:14 *God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”*

1. Jesus’ detractors understood His claim to divinity (and rejected it).

v. 59 *So they picked up stones to throw at him …*

John 10:31-33 *The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”*

Don’t drive Jesus out of the temple!

v. 59 *… but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.*

* What’s so unusual about a religious teacher promising eternal life to “anyone [who] keeps my word?”
* What’s different between the phrases, “before Abraham was, I was,” and, “before Abraham was, I am?”
* What are some attitudes that might drive Jesus ‘out of the temple’ today?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.

Notes