

John #49

8:48-59

02.10.08

“Before Abraham Was Born, I Am”

Intro: As we open our Bibles to our text this morning, we come to the last verses of chapter 8 which record the close of the confrontation between _____ the _____ religious _____ of Jerusalem.

A. With the tension of the Jewish leaders escalating, we come to our text this Lord’s Day where we pick up in the middle of the confrontation, and where we once again _____ as _____ testified of Himself that indeed, He is Divine; the Son of God; the Christ come to take away the sins of the world, offering life everlasting to all who would _____ His Word.

I. In an effort to discredit Jesus, the _____ religious _____ of Jerusalem made a _____ claim saying that Jesus was a Samaritan and demon possessed.

A. _____ did not retaliate, but flatly _____ the _____, that He did “not have a demon.”

1. The _____ that proved that Jesus did not have a demon was that He _____ the Heavenly _____, which is something a demon would not do.

B. Jesus explained that He did not say what He said in self-defense or for self-glorification, but to the glory of the _____ who seeks and is jealous for His own _____, warning them that His Father is the One who _____.

II. To glorify the Heavenly Father, Jesus told those who opposed Him that if anyone _____ His _____ they will _____ see _____.

A. This is the gospel! This is the _____! For though “there is One who ... judges” there is a way to escape the judgement and that through faith in Christ, by believing His Word! If any _____, that is, by faith believes what He said, obeying His word, they shall _____ see _____!

B. Instead of receiving His word with joy the leaders _____ the Lord’s word disputing the _____ of them and by assigning ill-motive to His motivation.

1. In denying the truth of the Lord’s word they reasoned that since Abraham and the prophets whose Word was Holy Writ, all died physical deaths. _____ then could Jesus say “If anyone keeps My word, he shall _____ taste of _____.”

2. In their _____ they thought, “How dare You exalt Your words and Yourself above Abraham and the Prophets. Indeed, You are a demon possessed ego-maniac!”

C. Jesus patiently explained that it was not rational for Him to seek His own glory. Contrary to their claim that He sought His own glory by exalting His Words, He said, “it is My _____ who _____ Me.” Being the Son of God, Jesus had no reason to seek His own glory.

III. In ministering to their true need, Jesus identified the reason for which the religious _____ did not honor Him. It was because they did not honor His Father for they had “_____ come to _____ Him.”

A. _____ told His opposition that He actively knew the Father (as no other). Therefore, He was the One who was uniquely qualified to _____ _____ to them!

B. _____ declared that He knows the Father and _____ His _____ perfectly, being faithful to the Father in everything.

C. Jesus declared that their physical father _____ rejoiced to _____ _____, and that he saw it and was glad!

1. Jesus was saying, “You ask who I am? I will tell you. I am the Christ whom your father _____, with great anticipation, longed to see; whom _____ he _____ and was glad. I am the Messiah! The Sacrificial _____ whom the Lord Himself promised to provide.”

D. They _____ His testimony by reasoning that _____, even on the far outside wasn't yet fifty years old, and Abraham had lived some 2,000 years earlier. How could Jesus say that He had seen Abraham?

IV. With the double emphasis “truly, truly” _____ told them directly that before Abraham was born He was the One who was, and is, and is to come - the “_____.”

A. Jesus said not “I was,” but “I am!” This is a clear and undeniable claim to be _____, _____ ever-present, the Great I Am!

B. Upon our Lord declaring Himself as the “I am”, the _____ leaders picked up stones to throw at Him, to _____ as a blasphemer.

1. Though the day would come when Jesus would lay down His life, this was not yet the time. So, “Jesus hid Himself and _____ _____ of the temple” _____.

Closing Words: And so closes this chapter and our Lord's conversation with those who hated Him. The Light left to shine upon them no more. Yet, even in this sad thought we find reason to rejoice for we remember that there were those who believed upon His word! Verse 30 says, “As He spoke these things, many came to _____.”

And so it is for us as it was for that crowd on that day. Either we will believe upon Him fully receiving His Word, or we will illogically reject the truth of Christ. And though He shines upon us now, the day approaches when all non-believers will finally fall into eternal darkness, forever and ever separated from Christ, the Eternal Light. Dear one, _____ the Words of Christ as you have heard them today? Or will you reject Him? Enter in while heavens gate stand open for as the Scripture teaches, the day rapidly approaches when heavens gate will be closed. Today is the day of salvation: _____ who you will serve.