



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 23

Preacher – Craig Klauka | Text – John 8:31-59

Summary:

In this passage, the confrontation between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders continues, and even intensifies. Here, Jesus takes aim at the very core of Jewish self-identity, their status as offspring of Abraham. He reveals how this self-justifying reliance on bloodline has caused them to miss the true nature of the promise given to Abraham and to reject the true fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, the One who is standing right in front of them!

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. Describe in your own words what Jesus means when he says "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free," (vv. 31-32). How would you define the key words here ('abide,' 'disciples,' etc.)?
3. **Application:** What does it mean to 'abide' in Jesus' word? What marks us as true disciples of Jesus? How has the freedom that comes from this been revealed in your life?

4. How does Jesus undermine the Jews' most fundamental self-conception in verses 34-38? What misunderstanding is he trying to correct in them?

5. The Jews first claim to be children of Abraham (39), and then to be children of God (41). Jesus tells them that they are children of the devil (44)! What is the mark of a child of God (42-43)? What is the mark of a child of the devil (44)?

6. Why did the Jews reject Jesus (45)? Jesus points out that their rejection comes **because** of his truth-telling – they were in such spiritual darkness that they couldn't help but reject the light. If you had to guess (and you do, since the text doesn't tell us!), what was Jesus' demeanor in speaking this truth about his adversaries? Was he angry? Or was he sad that so many couldn't see what was right in front of them?

7. **Application:** Jesus said, "Whoever is of God hears the words of God," (47). How do you hear the words of God? What makes it difficult to hear God's words? In what ways are you (and all of us), like those Pharisees in our inability to hear God's voice?

8. The Jews continue to reject Jesus' words, and they accuse him of being demon-possessed (bad), and of being a Samaritan (in their minds, much worse!). What does Jesus say to counter their accusations (see v. 50)? Who is the one honoring the Father here? Who are the ones dishonoring God?

9. What caused the Jews to finally try to kill Jesus (v. 58)? Why was this so offensive?
Application: What about Jesus challenges your own assumptions and beliefs? What's the best way to respond when this happens?

10. How would you 'title' this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?