

# Who are You?

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #30)

John 8:21-30

- A. Why was Jesus always in the face of the Pharisees? Because he loved them
- B. This is part of Jesus' "Light" conversation during the Feast of Tabernacles
  - 1. Jesus has covered this topic multiple times before; now one more time...
  - 2. This is Jesus' most impassioned plea to believe and follow him

## THE WARNING (8:21-22)

- A. (8:21) - Jesus' ascension will remove him from our physical presence
  - 1. When that happens, people will realize they just missed the event of a lifetime
  - 2. If you don't decide now, you may never get another opportunity
  - 3. This ominous warning of Jesus comes - not from a lack of love - but from a surplus of it
- B. (8:21) Human beings can only come into God's presence at God's pleasure
- C. (8:22) They're thinking Jesus is talking about taking his life; he is talking about their "taking their life" by refusing to acknowledge him

## THE WISDOM (8:23-27)

- A. (8:23) Jesus wants his people to know he comes from God - who sent him
- B. 8:24 - "*Now I'm telling you I will die for your sins; if you don't believe I AM he and trust me, you'll have to die for your own sins*"
  - 1. Trusting Jesus' I AM is the Bread that satisfies, the Living Water that quenches, the Way that leads, the Door that opens to the One God and to deep, lasting life
    - a. The I AM is from Exodus 3:14 where God identifies himself as "I AM"
    - b. In Exodus God is affirming he exists; he is confirming he is present and longing to help; in John 8, Jesus is affirming the same
  - 2. Believe this claim with your whole heart and you will have life; reject this claim and you've opted for death. That's the Gospel!
- C. (8:25) Finally, they are asking the fundamental question everyone must answer: "Who are You?"
  - 1. Jesus's answer: "*Exactly what I am telling you from the beginning!*"
  - 2. To put it in the vernacular: Jesus is IT!; to put it in context: "*Haven't you been listening!*"

D. 8:26 - "*There is so much I want to say to you...*"

- 1. Jesus: "*I want to talk about God...*"
  - 2. "*I want to talk about avoiding judgment now and at the end of history*"
  - 3. "*I want to talk about my relationship with my Father...about his trustworthiness*"
  - 4. Jesus' message is not about severe things but about saving things.
- E. (8:27) They are completely missing that Jesus wants to talk to them about their relationship with the Father - which Jesus has come to restore

## THE WITNESS (8:28-30)

- A. (8:28) - Now Jesus refers to the cross - God's greatest hour of grace; his most profound illustration of love; the ultimate proof of his love for us
  - 1. The cross is so countercultural, such human foolishness, only God could have created this plan to save his people
  - 2. The Cross is the center of the Gospel
    - a. The highness of God is made himself known in the lowness of Jesus
    - b. The lifting of Jesus onto the tree is the revelation of the majestic I AM
      - 1) The burning bush was only a preview
      - 2) The bleeding tree is the feature presentation
- B. (8:29) Jesus intimacy with his Father is the melody of the Gospel; One can't think/speak of the One without thinking/speaking of the Other
- C. (8:30) - Jesus' words are confirmed by his Father and embraced "by many"
  - 1. On occasion the words of Jesus may sound harsh, even confrontational
    - a. But it is the harshness of one who loves: "*You could be so much more...*"
    - b. Jesus wants the world to hear his words boldly and emphatically
  - 2. Jesus is saying it to you with tears in his eyes because he loves you