

Children of the Father

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #33)

John 8:48-59

- A. The Jews in Jesus' day relished that they were "Children of Abraham"
 - 1. They believed their "salvation" was linked to being part of his family
 - 2. They believed their sonship meant their destiny was signed and sealed
- B. In his discourse at the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus challenges this idea

The Continuing Confrontation (8:48-50)

- A. The Jews aren't going to let Jesus' statements go un-refuted
 - 1. Jesus said they were "*Children of the Devil*" (8:41-44); they said "*Jesus is demon-possessed*"
 - 2. Jesus denies being demonic saying he honors his Father
 - B. John 7 started with Jesus' rejection of his brothers' appeal for worldly success and glory; John 8 ends with Jesus repeating his objections to seeking success and glory
 - 1. The antidote to coveting "glory" is trusting the One who sends us into mission
 - 2. Jesus's crucifixion doesn't seem "glorious," but it was Jesus' greatest glory
 - a. It says God loves us/you this much
 - b. It says God wants you to live this sacrificial way
- "If anyone would be my disciple [i.e., if anyone desires real success and glory], let them take this cross-walk and follow me" (cf. Matthew 16:24)*

The Great Conquest (8:51-55)

- A. Our major fear is death. Jesus wants to relieve us of that fear
 - 1. Jesus promises that those who keep his Word need not fear of death
 - 2. This is an outrageous, audacious promise
- B. Jesus claims to offer a life even Abraham and the prophets didn't enjoy
- C. Jesus' first response: "*If I was glorifying myself it would be blasphemous...*"
- D. Jesus' second response: "*I know the Father; I am keeping his Word*"
 - 1. Either Jesus is right and his objectors are wrong or his objectors are right and Jesus is wrong
 - 2. So choose. Choose wrong and you die; choose rightly and you will live

THE TREMENDOUS CLAIM (8:56-59)

- A. Jesus' third response: "*Your father Abraham was thrilled he'd get to see my day*"
 - 1. The Jews believed Abraham knew of [a] coming Messiah
 - 2. Jesus says he's the one whom Abraham knew and expected
- B. The Judeans said, "*That's ridiculous!*"
- C. Jesus: "*Before Abraham was [born], I am*"
 - 1. Abraham was; Jesus is. Abraham was a man of God; Jesus is - God as man
 - a. Jesus, like his Father, is always in the present; always timeless
 - b. Jesus cannot express his deity more profoundly or succinctly
 - c. These five words either serve as the ultimate altar call or megalomania
 - 2. All who hear his claim are confronted with a life and death decision
- D. The Judeans final response: "*They picked up stones to throw at him...*"
- E. C.S. Lewis said, "*Jesus is either a lunatic, a liar, or Lord*"
 - 1. If Jesus made these statements and he knew they were false, he is a liar
 - 2. If Jesus didn't know his statements were false, he is a lunatic
 - 3. If Jesus claims are true then he is Lord and the only way to eternal life
 - 4. And if Jesus is Lord, he must not only reign, he must rule in our hearts

"You can shut him up for a fool; you can spit at Him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with some patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to." (C.S. Lewis)
- F. Who do you say Jesus is? Your life depends on your answer