



10/30/25

Yesterday, we studied John 8:31-47, where Jews who claimed to believe in Jesus began to have that faith tested... and came up short. Today, we'll see just how little faith they had. 1 Peter 1:6-7 tells us that God allows our faith to be tested. I'm sure He knows whether or not we'll respond to our circumstances in faith, but He helps us to see how deep our faith goes by how we handle difficulty... so that He can help our faith grow deeper. I hope and pray you and I will allow every circumstance to be an opportunity to love Jesus more.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

John 8:48-57

Okay... I'm coming in on the middle of a conversation. What has transpired so far? There were Jewish people who "believed" Jesus on the surface, but only on their terms. When Jesus began to expose the pride of their hearts, they chose to rewrite history rather than humble themselves before Him. While they claimed to be offspring of Abraham who had never been in captivity... and while they claimed that God was their father... Jesus showed them that they were really children of the devil, slaves of sin... Just like the devil was a liar, they were lying. He rewrote history to get what he wanted, and that's what they were doing. Truly, people will look most like the one they follow. Who do I look like? O Lord, let it be You!!!

If the Jewish people had been paying attention and had truly believed Jesus, they would have seen enormous hope in what He was saying.

- *Vs. 31-32 ~ He said, "If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you shall know the truth and truth shall set you free." There is freedom in embracing the truth of Jesus!*
- *Vs. 36 ~ He said, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Jesus sets me free from the captivity of sin! He has the power to do what no one else can! He wants to set me free. He does set me free!*

- *Vs. 42 ~ Jesus came from God the Father to make a way for me to be a true child of God. This is love! This is awesome because Jesus and the Father are united in purpose, to save me and bring me into the family forever.*
- *Vs. 47 ~ Because I am saved by Jesus and now I am "of God," I can hear His word and take it to heart and genuinely live by what it says... not in fear of punishment, but in gratitude for my salvation and freedom... enjoying relationship with Him!*

That is not what the Jewish people were hearing. They were listening with proud hearts. Pride distorts the truth.

Jesus had said they were "of their father the devil."

Now they threw it back at Him. They called Him a Samaritan... they hated Samaritans because they were "half Jews" who had intermingled with other pagan religions. Jews shunned Samaritans. These Jews also told Jesus, "We don't have a demon. YOU do!"

Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me." What evidence did the people have against Jesus to say He had a demon? Or that He was a Samaritan? None. The only thing they had against Jesus was that He chose to honor His Father above them. What He said against them would have only been wrong if it wasn't true. What they said against Him was just accusation with no evidence... because there was no truth in what they said.

That's what Satan does. He accuses with no proof. If he can accuse loud enough, people will believe it because their pride latches on to his deceit. But accusation doesn't change the truth, and the true and highest authority has the final say. O Lord, not listening to Your word is devastating to my soul! Please help me to stand with Your truth! And when You expose the sin of my heart, please help me to humble myself and turn from the sin! Please remove the pride of my heart!

After saying that they were dishonoring Him, Jesus said, "Yet I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks it, and He is the judge." His purpose was not to get them to treat Him better, it was to bring them to the truth. He wasn't there to point to Himself in order to get the approval of men. He was there to honor His Father, the true Judge, and do His will. He would not allow the disapproval of men move Him from His purpose.

I praise the Lord that Jesus was so resolved to do His Father's will! I think back to the temptation He faced at the beginning of His ministry, when Satan tempted Him for 40 days and nights while Jesus went without food. Satan attacked Jesus. He continued to say, "IF You are the Son of God... PROVE IT." That's exactly what these people were doing. Whether they wanted to believe it or not, they were acting as the voice of the devil. Jesus couldn't be moved. O Lord, I pray that I will listen to You and not be moved no matter what!

Then Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death." Jesus started this whole conversation in vs. 31 by saying, "Abide in My word." Here He makes it clear... To abide in His word is to keep His word. It's to guard His word and know it... to obey it. Genuine faith will ALWAYS lead to obedience. Here's the hope... Obedience to God's word that is motivated by faith means eternal life with Him. Children of God will never taste death... We will face physical death, but that just ushers us into the presence of God where we will live with Him forever.

Again... this is where the Jews were just being argumentative. They believed in "Paradise." They believed that a person would be without God in heaven when they died. They were so angry, so wanting to be right, that they stopped listening to what Jesus was really saying and just listened in order to fight against Him. Yikes. That is a tool of the devil. That is VERY convicting!!! How often have I done that when I'm in conflict, especially with my husband! Ugh!!! Lord, please help me to listen with open ears to understand, and not closed ears that just want to win a fight. Proverbs 18:2 says, "A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion." Help me not to be a fool! Help me to seek to understand, not just to be understood.

The Jews said, "Are You greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do You make Yourself out to be?" In other words, "Who do You think You are! How dare You!!!"

Now Jesus REALLY stirred things up. He said, "If I glorify Myself (like you're doing), My glory is nothing. It is My Father (the One you claim to know) who glorifies Me." The only glory and honor that really matters is that which comes from the Father. Any glory I seek for myself is wasted... any approval I seek from other people over the approval of God is for personal gain and it does not work. Jesus modeled for me what it is to live for the glory of God and not myself. To put my faith in Him is to seek His glory alone.

Jesus told them, "You have not truly known My Father. But I know Him. If I say I don't, that would make Me a liar just like you." This is really important for me to see. Jesus would not compromise the truth in order to please man. He could have just healed people and been really nice... and even stop helping people on the Sabbath in order to keep the Pharisees happy. But any compromise to the truth leads to a lie. O Lord, please help me to stand on Your truth, the only truth, with no compromise even if it means that I will be "cancelled" by others.

Jesus said, "I KNOW the Father and I keep His word." To truly know Him is to obey Him. If I truly know Him, I will WANT to keep His word because that is the best place to be... without comparison!

Okay... feel the beat of the music begin to rumble... Jesus said, "Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He DID see it and was filled with joy."

Wait a second... that means You would have to be ancient! Abraham lived about 2000 YEARS

before Jesus came to earth! That means Abraham was in heaven with Jesus for all those years... preparing for this moment... celebrating when it finally came!!!

"So the Jews said to Him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?'" Are You nuts? You're just a little whipper snapper! A kid!

Now the music swells. The moment comes. Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." That was it. They could handle it no more. Conversation over. They picked up stones to kill Jesus. WHY? Because saying, "I AM" is saying, "I AM GOD." Yahweh, the name for the Lord from the Old Testament, means, "I AM." Jesus did not say, "I was." He said, "I AM." He is the eternal God, with the Father before the world existed... He spoke the world into existence. The Jews knew exactly what He meant. They didn't try to kill Him because of bad grammar. They tried to kill Him because they were of their father, the devil, who wanted Jesus dead.

They were not able to kill Jesus. They were never able to kill Jesus UNTIL He laid down His life... but even then, the devil did not get what he wanted... because Jesus' death took away the sting of death... and Jesus did not stay in the grave! Praise His name!!!

So how do I respond to this? Ask myself, am I like the people in this passage who said they believed but their actions proved otherwise? O Lord, please don't let that be true of me! I choose to worship Jesus in true faith! Genuine faith will honor Him as the one with all authority... all power. He is LOVE itself. He came to set me free and to give me eternal life, not as His servant, but as family. Yes, I am called to serve... but not as a slave and not by forced labor. I am called to serve in faith as a member of His family. I am called to abide in His word, to keep His word, to listen to Him. Listening to Him is a privilege. He always speaks truth, and His truth is my freedom. Is my faith genuine? O Lord, please make it so! Please help me to seek Your glory, Your pleasure and approval alone. Help me to stand on Your word with no compromise. I praise You, Jesus, that You refused to compromise, and because of that, I am free. Praise Your name!