

Who Is Your Father? (John 8:12-59)

Pastor Deric

(12) Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (13) So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." (14) Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going." (15) You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. (16) Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. (17) In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. (18) I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." (19) They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." (20) These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

(21) So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." (22) So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" (23) He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. (24) I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." (25) So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. (26) I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." (27) They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. (28) So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. (29) And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." (30) As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

(31) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, (32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (33) They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" (34) Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. (35) The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. (36) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (37) I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. (38) I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

(39) They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, (40) but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. (41) You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father--even God." (42) Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (43) Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. (44) You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (45) But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. (46) Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? (47) Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

(48) The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" (49) Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. (50) Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. (51) Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." (52) The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.'" (53) Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" (54) Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'" (55) But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. (56) Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." (57) So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" (58) Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." (59) So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. [John 8:12-59 ESV]

Practical Application

1. Jesus is speaking today. Are you listening?
2. Jesus is the light of the world. Follow Him. Be free from darkness. Walk in the light. Enjoy the light of life.
3. God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), the Bible (Genesis-Revelation), human history, and billions of people testify to who Jesus is.

4. Jesus knew who His Father was, where He came from, and where He was going. This is what made the difference in His life, and this is what can make the difference in your life. Jesus is the solution to fatherlessness.
5. The judgement of people is not final and is often times inaccurate. Only God's judgement is perfect, and matters in the end.
6. Jesus did everything on God's timetable and not ultimately any persons. We too should do God's will, in God's way, and on God's timetable.
7. Jesus came from heaven to earth to rescue us and reconcile us to God as Father.
8. Apart from Jesus you will die in your sins.
9. Jesus came to earth to reveal the Heavenly Father to us.
10. God the Father taught Jesus. We also need the Father to teach us.
11. Jesus knew that the Father was with Him and for Him. Christian, the Father is with you and for you also.
12. True believers/disciples abide/remain in Jesus' Word.
13. God's truth is what sets us free.
14. Your family heritage can't bring you freedom. Religion can't bring you freedom. Morality can't bring you freedom.
15. Apart from Christ people are slaves to sin, and only Jesus Christ can truly set you free.
16. Do not be led astray or deceived by the father of lies who is a murderer, thief, and all out enemy of God.
17. Abraham saw and loved the Messiah/Christ. Abraham looked to Christ by faith.
18. If God is your Father you will love, trust, and follow Jesus.
19. What does God the Father want you to do today?
20. Some people are actually fathered by the devil himself. Pray for them. Seek to lead them to Jesus.
21. Honor your Heavenly Father every day.
22. Live for the glory of God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).
23. Through Jesus we will never die, but have eternal life.

Announcements

1. HOPE BLAST! Join us for a night of fun, food, games, fellowship, and worship! The Hope Blast will be March 18th, 4pm-6pm. Invite friends and family! We are also looking for volunteers to help with the event. If you have questions, please contact Diane Davis or submit your questions to info@hopemountain.church.
2. Mission Trip Fundraiser! There will be a fundraiser event for Caleb Burke and his mission trip to India. HMC is hosting a luncheon on March 12th from 12:00 pm- 2:30 PM, to help raise funds for this mission trip. Come out and support one of our own young men who has begun the process of fulfilling his desire to become a full-time missionary. Support from his home church is instrumental in helping him along the path that God has laid out for him.
3. The Men's Ministry Group will meet again on March 26 after church service. Join the men from HMC to fellowship and worship the Lord! If you or someone you know is interested in joining this group of God loving men, contact Brad Vick.
4. Join us for a Family Baby Shower for Davia O'Neal and Kortlin Zeigler Sunday 3/19/23 right after service. Come and celebrate the upcoming additions to the HMC family with a pot-luck style lunch and baby shower!
5. EASTER EGG HUNT Sunday, April 2nd, we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt for all the kids at Hope Mountain please bring your basket and be ready for some fun. This will be at 9:00 am during the Sunday School hour. There will be snacks, a picture booth, and much more. Please invite your friends and family. If you could bring eggs or candy to donate that would be amazing! There will be a bin in the lobby. We need volunteers to come early to hide eggs and decorate. Please email Tiffany Vick at bwvick@yahoo.com if you have any questions.
6. Did you miss Pastor Deric's sermon last Sunday? Tired of listening to the same old radio stations in the morning? Want to binge watch the sermon series on John? Want to dig deeper into the practical application of a sermon? All of Pastor Deric's sermons are now being uploaded to the Hope Mountain website (<https://hopemountain.church>). The sermons are available in video and audio format along with the outline in PDF. <https://hopemountain.church/resources/sermons/>
7. GIVING OPPORTUNITY. We will be taking up a love offering to support the wonderful worship band from Word of Life Ministries that performed for us last Sunday. If you would like to donate, simply specify in the memo section of your check or tithe envelope "Worship Band Love Offering."
8. HMC KIDS Staff Appreciation Luncheon! Sunday February 26th (today), after church. If you have been an HMC Kids volunteer over the past year, HMC Kids leaders would like to invite you to an appreciation luncheon.