

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Disconnects and Contentions, Part 4

Last time...the direct confrontation between Jesus Christ and the Pharisees on the day after the last and great day of the Feast of Tabernacles got personal, got “testy”, with the Pharisees hurling a couple of personal insults at Jesus

This time...the confrontation in John 8 continues and concludes

v51 keep My saying...never see death:

The Pharisees believe Jesus of Nazareth is just another of a long line of self-glorifying, self-proclaiming Messiahs that have littered their history in the past centuries (400 years of silence, broken by John the Baptist)

The utterly reject what He has to say
(even though they cannot deny what He has done)

Jesus has told them that

- He is a True Witness of God
- He is the Son of Man, the Kinsman-Redeemer sent from heaven by the Father
- they would have known Him had they known His Father
- they would be made free from slavery to sin if they continued in the truth, His Word
- they are children of the world and children of the devil;
they are not Abraham’s children

Now Jesus says to them

Verily, verily I say unto you...Thus says the Lord

If any man...whosoever will so choose

keep...guard, prevent from escaping, hold fast

My saying...My words

- the Truth, the words of the Father
- that will make you free from slavery to sin

he shall never see death...

- repeating John 5:24
- My words are the words of Life
- Matt 7:24-27 and Matt 13:18-22
- death: the 2nd death, eternal death, separation of soul from God

v52-53 thou has a devil...whom makest thou thyself:

The Pharisees again reject and contend with what Jesus says

(By their human reasoning) Now we know you have a devil...

repeating the accusation of v48, therefore a false witness/prophet

Abraham and the prophets are dead...1st death, separation of soul from body

There is another disconnect between Jesus and the Pharisees: death

They believe in the resurrection of the dead...but v46b-47

Q: Is Abraham dead?

1st: Yes (Gen 25:8...gave up the ghost)

2nd: No (Luke 16:19-31, Matt 22:23-32)

Q: Are the prophets dead?

Same as Abraham

Why (1st death)? Matt 23:29-35

Who are You making Yourself to be...repeating the question of v25, because v47

v54-55 If I honor Myself:

Jesus refutes again the accusation of the Pharisees that He is NOT a
self-glorifying, self-proclaiming Messiah

His honor is from the One proclaiming Him to be their Messiah,
Kinsman-Redeemer

- My Father
- The God they (falsely, self-deceived) claim to worship

With v51 in mind, Jesus is repeating His claim of Deity

John 5:17-18

John 8:12, 23, 24, 28, 35-36, 38, 42

Jesus tells the Pharisees they do not know the God they claim to know because

- they do not believe God's testimony/witness regarding Him, the Son
- they do not hear the words of God
- they do as their father does – lie and lust to kill

Jesus, on the other hand, knows the Father, God, because He keeps God's words

Matt 5:17

v46

v56 Abraham rejoiced to see My day:

Jesus is acknowledging that the Pharisees are the physical descendents of Abraham (v37a)

Yet, they are the (spiritual) children of the devil (v37b-44)

Jesus is saying that Abraham, who lived about 1900 years previously to this conversation/confrontation,

- rejoiced to see “My day”...this time in God’s Plan of Redemption when the Seed of the Woman promised thru him (Gen 12:3, in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed), the Kinsman-Redeemer would be in the midst of His people

- saw this time and was glad...with John 1:18 in mind,

Gen 12:7

Gen 14:18-20 with Heb 7:1-3

Gen 17:1-3a

Gen 18:1-2, 14, 16-33

Gen 22:11-14

In other words, Jesus Christ

- The LORD
- The Almighty God
- The Angel of the LORD

was the object of Abraham’s faith, hope, and joy

v57 not yet 50 years old:

By thinking they knew the history of Jesus’ conception (v41b),
you would think they know Jesus’ age...32 or 33

Perhaps the Pharisees are being conservative regarding His age, giving Jesus
“the benefit of the doubt” regarding His statement in v56 for the purposes
of responding to it

Their human reasoning: using round numbers

Abraham lived about 1900 years ago

Jesus is about 50 years old

If Jesus did not (because could not) see Abraham, how could Abraham
have seen Jesus?

In other words, the Pharisees persistently reject Jesus’ claims of Deity
So, to leave no doubt...

v58 Verily, verily I say unto you:
Thus says the LORD

Before Abraham was, I AM:

Before...in time

Abraham was...existed

I AM...I the Son (v35-36, 38) existed, I AM the Self-existent, eternal God of
Abraham, the Creator that transcends time

Jesus is applying to Himself the sacred Name of the OTL God

Ex 3:14-15...I AM THAT I AM, My name forever

YHWH...Jehovah

Joshua...Jehovah is salvation

Jesus...Joshua

The day after He did the same thing

(Is 12 on the last and great day of the Feast of Tabernacles)

v59 they took up stones to cast at Him:

How did the Pharisees' react to Jesus' statement in v58?

With

- understanding...they knew exactly what He had just said
- self-righteous, religious fury...believed Him to be a vile blasphemer worthy of death (Jewish method was by stoning)
- lusts of their father the devil...what they have desired all day to do – kill Him
(the stones were left there by v7-9, stones brought to stone...Him)

but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple:

In a way not revealed in Scripture (a mystery), Jesus concealed Himself from the outraged, murderous Pharisees and walked out of the Temple

No man could lay hands on Him (again), no man could throw stones at Him...
because Mark 14:49

I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled.

God is in control, man is not, Satan is not

Application

A. Jesus Christ is God...I AM

Countless people...who have never read the Bible...say,
“Show me where Jesus said He was God.
Jesus never claimed to be God.”

Well, here it is – the most direct and simple of many such claims in John 8, elsewhere
Revealed in Scripture, the identity of Jesus Christ is abundantly clear – He is God

Jesus is God’s answer to man’s

Message

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. disappointment | I AM the Door |
| 2. doubt | I AM the Way, the Truth, the Life |
| 3. disability | I AM the True Vine |
| 4. desires | I AM the Bread of Life |
| 5. despair | I AM the Good Shepherd |
| 6. darkness | I AM the Light of the World |
| 7. death | I AM the Resurrection and the Life |

B. This absolute and unchanging Truth is a revelation of God, not a product of human reasoning

I can prove to you that you do not exist by human reasoning in the form of an
Abbott and Costello routine from the 1940s

Are you in NYC?
Are you in LA?
Are you in Chicago?
Well, if you are not in NYC, LA, or Chicago, you must be somewhere else
And if you are somewhere else, you can’t be here

We will not grasp the Identity of Jesus Christ with our human reasoning
His identity is a revelation of God to be grasped only by faith

When we subjugate the Word of God (Infinite, transcending time)
to human reasoning (finite, time-constrained/biased),
we always get “it” (what God is saying to us) wrong

But when we subjugate our human reasoning to the Word of God, we get

- a right mind
- transformed by a renewed mind
- stability in our times

Is 33:5-6

Therefore

Is 34:16a

Acts 17:11

Conclusion

Let me say it as clearly as did Jesus: Jesus Christ is God
A revelation of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God

Who needs to know that Jesus Christ is God?

1. Believers

Know certainly (hope), know without doubt or confusion

So we 2 Peter 3:18

draw near and stay near, hearing our Good Shepherd's voice and
following Him...wherever He leads us

not leave our first love

submit to hand of God conforming us into the image of His Son

have joy in every circumstance

2. Unbelievers

Their eternity...currently eternal death...hangs in the balance!

Jesus Christ can make them free from the slavery to sin

Jesus Christ is the conqueror of death and the Giver of Eternal Life

He did not come to condemn sinners but to save sinners...by faith, not works

Someone needs to tell them!

Rom 10:14-15 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?

and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?

and how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written,

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,

and bring glad tidings of good things

And knowing about Jesus is not enough...

He must be known Personally and relationally

Believer: Is Jesus Christ The Lord of your life? Or just Savior?
Every aspect of your life?

Unbeliever: Is Jesus Christ hid from you...because of your prideful unbelief/self-deception?
Is He passing you by?
Repent before it's too late!
Don't let Him get away before you surrender your heart!