

Stone Jesus?

Let's Sort Things Out!

Text: John 8:48-59 NAS 2020

Introduction: Dear friends: Today, in [John 8](#), Jesus is in the temple and in the middle of *an intense conversation* with some scribes¹ and Pharisees² who were blind to the truth.

- They said to Jesus, “[Abraham is our father.](#)” Jesus said to them, “[If you are Abraham’s children, do the deeds of Abraham.](#)”
- ...They said to [Jesus]... “we have one Father: God.” Jesus said to them, “[If God were your Father, you would love Me... Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you... are of your father the devil...](#)” (39, 41-44).

Strong words! The conversation continues as we move into today’s gospel reading.

1. **Jewish Leaders Insult Jesus:** ⁴⁸ [The Jews answered and said to \[Jesus\], “Do we not rightly say that You are a Samaritan \[a hated person\], and You have a demon?”](#) ⁴⁹ [Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; on the contrary, I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.](#) ⁵⁰ [But](#)

¹ Scribes – legal scholars and teachers of the law.

² Pharisees – members of a prominent Jewish party, which emphasized strict adherence to Jewish law and traditions.

I am not seeking My glory; there is One [that is, God the Father] **who seeks it, and judges.**

- a. Hatred For Jesus: The scribes and Pharisees *viewed themselves as God's dear people*, **but** they spoke of Jesus in extremely negative terms – ♦Samaritan and ♦demon possessed!
- b. Sorting Things Out:
 - i. The Jewish Leaders – Sadly, they hated the Samaritans and greatly dishonored Jesus, *who was sent by the Father for their eternal benefit*.
 - ii. Jesus – He loved all people and did nothing to exalt Himself; instead, He exalted the Father – *by doing His will*.
 - iii. Jesus was insulted, but He returned no insult – Peter wrote about Jesus: “...while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously” (1 Pet. 2:23).

2. **Believers Will Never Experience Death:**

- a. The Jewish Leaders Were Spiritually Blind: Jesus said to them: ⁵¹**Truly, truly I say to you, if anyone follows My word, he will never see death.** ⁵²**The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets *as well*; and yet You say, ‘If anyone follows My word, he will never taste of death.’** ⁵³**You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died, are You? The prophets died too. Whom do You make Yourself *out to be*?”**

- i. Disagree >>> Disrespect: When sinners disagree, *they usually disrespect!* The Jewish leaders disrespected Jesus by saying He had a demon.
 - ii. Jesus' Response: He told the truth for the benefit of all: ***Believers will never experience death!*** Why not? **They** ✦ have Spirit-given faith in Jesus' word, ✦ obey Jesus' word, and ✦ do not change Jesus' word. **Jesus said**: "...he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life" (Jn. 5:24). **God said**: "I am the God of Abraham, ...Isaac, and ...Jacob" [Then Jesus said:] "He is not the God of the dead but of the living" (Mt. 22:32).
 - iii. Who Do You Think You Are? Maybe the Jewish leaders were becoming open to Jesus' identity!
- b. Jesus Explained His Relationship with the Father:
- ⁵⁴ **Jesus answered** [their question], **"If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; ⁵⁵ and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him. And if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you; but I do know Him, and I follow His word.**
- i. Proper Exaltation: It must come **from** God. If anyone exalts himself, *God will humble him!* The Father's miracles glorified Jesus!
 - ii. Knowing God: Many say – ***I believe in God, or I am a Christian!*** But KNOWING is much more than SAYING! **When we know the Father and the Son, we are compelled to follow God's word!** Jesus did, but the Jewish leaders did not!

3. **Let's Stone Jesus:** ⁵⁶ **Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he would [live to] see My day, and he saw it and rejoiced.** ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and You have seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, **"Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am [Ex. 3:14 "I AM WHO I AM"]."** ⁵⁹ Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and left the temple grounds.

a. How Did Abraham Live to See Jesus' Day?

- i. When Abraham was 75, the LORD promised to bless all the families of the earth through him: **A future descendant would be the Messiah.**
- ii. As the years went by, Abraham did not waver in his faith: "...with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform" (Rom. 4:20-21).
- iii. At 100 when Isaac was born, Abraham saw and rejoiced – in Isaac, *but especially in the Messiah who would come through Isaac*, that is, **JESUS!**

b. How Was He Before Abraham? ***The Son of God was with the Father and the HS before creation!*** Let us **never** reject and stone but **always** trust and obey!

Let Us Pray: Dear F, S, and HS, please move us and others to always be repentant, respectful, and obedient to Your glory!

Website: www.BLC7500.com; **YouTube and Podcast:** "Benefit from the Bible"
Facebook: "Bethlehem Parma" / **Pastor:** RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230