

Jesus and the Father

Intro:

1. Focus on Jn 8. Jesus knew God (origin), loved God (relationship) and obeyed God (responsibility).
2. Jesus' presence in the world – teaching, claims, works – produced much controversy.
 - a. Joseph and Mary's boy.
 - b. From Galilee/Nazareth.
 - c. Lack of formal education.
 - d. Good/demon possessed.
 - e. Miracles/violate Sabbath.
 - f. A/The Prophet? Messiah? King?
3. The religious pluralism of our day seeks to undermine Jesus' identity. We must be certain of our own convictions in the midst of modern controversy.

1. Jesus and the Father

A. Setting: About six months before Jesus' death (7:2); Pharisees losing control (7:45-52); Jesus is teaching in temple (8:20, 59) after neutralizing scheme via adulterous woman. They had already attempted to kill Jesus for blasphemy because He said *"that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God"* (5:18).

B. Jesus' references to the Father:

1. Claim of preexistence: *"I am with the Father who sent Me ..."* (8:16); *"I speak what I have seen with My Father"* (8:38); *"I proceeded forth and came from God"* (8:42; cf. 6:62; 3:13); *"Before Abraham was, I AM"* (8:58).
2. Concert, harmony with God: *"I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me"* (8:49); *"My Father honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God"* (8:54); *"The Father has not left Me alone"* (8:29).
3. Submissive deference to Father: *"As My Father taught Me, I speak these things"* (8:28); *"I always do those things that please Him"* (8:29); *"Which of you convicts Me of sin?"* (8:46); *"I do know Him and keep His word"* (8:55).

C. These claims were only blasphemy if unsubstantiated, but *"the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me ..."* (8:18). Jesus, as John pointed out at the beginning of the gospel, was "with God" and "was God." John emphasizes that "no one has seen God at any time" (1:18; 5:37; 6:46). **Jesus is the greatest view of God that we will ever get on this side of eternity.** *"He has declared Him"* (1:18).

2. The Response of the Jews

A. *“You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also”* (8:19; cf. 8:42).

B. The Jews have a different father:

1. Not Abraham (8:39-40). Not even God (8:42).
2. *“You are of your father the devil ...”* (8:44). They demonstrated this by their actions: they used deceit in the matter of the adulterous woman, and they were intent on killing Jesus (8:37, 40).

C. Their denial of truth:

1. *“Your witness is not true”* (8:13).
2. *“Will He kill Himself?”* (8:22).
3. *“We have never been in bondage to anyone”* (8:33).
4. *“Abraham is our father”* (8:39).
5. *“We have one Father – God”* (8:41).
6. *“You are a Samaritan and have a demon”* (8:48).
7. *“Are you greater than our father Abraham?”* (8:53 – rhetorical).
8. *“Have You seen Abraham?”* (8:57).

3. The Heart of the Issue

A. *“If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins”* (8:24).

B. *“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (8:31-32).

C. We, like Jesus, must know God, love and obey Him.

1. Our service to God must not arise from slavish devotion, tradition or habit. We must seek to develop a relationship with God as our Heavenly Father.
2. Jesus is the perfect model of such loving devotion. God didn’t just *tell* us what He wants; He *showed* us through His incarnate Son.