

9/1/2019

Who Do You Say He Is?

John 8:48-59 ⁴⁸The Jews answered Him, “Are we not right to say that You are a Samaritan and You have a demon?” ⁴⁹“I do not have a demon,” Jesus replied, “but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. ⁵⁰I do not seek My own glory. There is One who seeks it, and He is the Judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I tell you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.” ⁵²“Now we know that You have a demon!” declared the Jews. “Abraham died, and so did the prophets, yet You say that anyone who keeps Your word will never taste death. ⁵³Are You greater than our father Abraham? He died, as did the prophets. Who do You claim to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory means nothing. The One who glorifies Me is My Father, of whom you say ‘He is our d God.’ ⁵⁵You do not know Him, but I know Him. If I said I did not know Him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know Him, and I keep His word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham was overjoyed to see My day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and You have seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸“Truly, truly, I tell you,” Jesus declared, “before Abraham was born, I am!” ⁵⁹At this, they picked up stones to throw at Him. But Jesus was hidden and went out of the temple area. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A.** Jesus is having His lineage and sanity questioned by those who used to follow Him. v.48
- B.** He defends both through the testimony of His words and His actions. V.49-50
- C.** He then equates keeping His word with having victory over death. V.51
- D.** They answer back by using Abraham and the prophets as a comparison to Jesus. V.52-53
- E.** Jesus refused to glorify Himself but let the Father be the one who glorifies Him. V.54-55
- F.** Jesus then made the claim to have seen Abraham. V.56

Genesis 18:1-2 The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. (NIV)

Genesis 18:33-19:1 When the Lord had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home. The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. (NIV)

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. (NIV)

G. In response to their questioning His claim, Jesus speaks out and claims to be *the I AM* from the Old Testament. V.58

Exodus 3:2-3 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.” (NIV)

Exodus 3:13-14 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” (NIV)

H. Those opposed to Jesus responded to this claim of His by trying to *stone* Him but He slipped away. V.59

II. How can we respond to this passage?

A. Our words and our actions will be our *witnesses* on judgment day.

B. We must respond to His claim by either *worshipping* Him or *stoning* Him. There really isn't a third way.