

The Gospel of John Part 45: Living In Godliness

John 8:48-59



John 8:48-59 The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly 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

But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. 51 Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death—ever." 52 The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets also; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death—ever.' 53 Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham who died? The prophets died too; whom 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 and you have not known 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 keep His word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and 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 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

Jesus's teaching at the Temple Complex in John chapter 8 is rich with declarations of Jesus's identity and positive benefits for believing in Him. The chief of which is Jesus revealed in verse 58 as the great "I AM", or the God of Moses, who grants eternal life. But among all these great declarations of truth, Jesus has been subtly offering proof of His divine nature in how He lives His life. For any man to claim to be God, that

claim can only stand if the same person lives the kind of life only God could live. This is what Jesus did, and this is our example for living in Godliness today.

1) A Christlike Walk In One That Honors God. When the Pharisees accuse Jesus of being a Samaritan and demon possessed this is a statement that defines Jesus as the worst sort of person. But Jesus says the opposite is true and His offer of proof is that in all His ways He honors the Father. To honor God is to place the highest value on God in our lives, over and above anyone or anything else. Like Jesus, a life lived that honors God is one that will look so radically different from the world that the world cannot understand it.

2) A Christlike Walk Is One that Obeys God. The Pharisees miss the point concerning how Jesus's character reveals He truly is of God and persist that He is demon possessed. But Jesus appeals again to His character as proof that He is of God and says they can know He is of God because of how He obeys the word of God. Nobody except Jesus can claim to always do what is pleasing to God and be without sin, because for any other person that would be impossible. Yet Jesus says that if one is to begin to know God the Father the way He does, then that relationship is built upon obedience. The greater a person's obedience is to God the greater the fellowship one experiences with God. To say that we "know God" is to show that we honor God and obey God in our lives.

3) A Christlike Walk Is One That Reveals God. Jesus concludes His teaching at the Temple Complex with a declaration that He is the great "I Am" of the Old Testament. The power of this statement is found in the proof of Jesus's life. He is revealed as God by doing what only God could do: live a perfect life. Though we will never be divine, we can show the world a glimpse of God by demonstrating His moral character in our daily lives.