JESUS PROVOKES HIS ENEMIES

JOHN 8:47-59

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO JOHN'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 8. WE HAVE COME TO THE END OF THIS CHAPTER TODAY. FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS (SINCE CHAPTER 7) WE HAVE BEEN STUDYING THE DIALOUGE BETWEEN JESUS AND THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN JERUSALEM. THIS BACK-AND-FORTH CONFLICT HAS HAD A PATTERN. THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS UNLOAD BLASPHEMOS LIES ABOUT JESUS, JESUS RESPONDS WITH TRUTH, THEN GIVES A GRACIOUS INVITATION TO SALVATION. INSTEAD OF RESPONDING TO THE TRUTH WITH REVERENCE AND AWE, THESE RELIGIOUS LEADERS GET ANGRIER WITH THE ULTIMATE INTENT TO KILL THE SON OF GOD. WHEN A SINNER IS FACED WITH THE TRUTH OF GOD THEY WILL EITHER REPENT OF THEIR SIN AND ACCEPT THE TRUTH OR REJECT HIM IN ANNOYANCE OR ANGER. UNFORTUNATELY, FALSE RELIGION THAT IS CONTROLLED BY SATAN, MAY CLEAN UP THE OUTSIDE OF A PERSON MORALLY. HOWEVER, IT IS THE UNSEEN HEART AND SOUL OF A PERSON THAT NEEDS TO BE CLEANSED, HEALED, AND SET FREE FROM SIN, DEATH AND HELL. THERE IS ONLY ONE NAME THAT SAVES. JESUS CHRIST. THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO THE FATHER THAN THROUGH THE SON. BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS. IN

TODAY'S TEXT WE WILL SEE JESUS PROVOKE HIS ENEMIES WITH TRUTH AGAIN. WE MUST REMEMBER THOUGH, JESUS IS NOT BEING ANTAGONISTIC. HE IS BEING MERCIFUL. HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH IN LOVE. HE IS A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR HOW WE ARE TO CONDUCT OURSELVES CHURCH. MAY GOD GIVE US THE GRACE AND THE POWER TO STAND FIRM IN THE TRUTH, WHILE EXUDING THE FULLNESS OF HIS LOVE. 10 TIMES IN CHAPTER 8 JESUS IS ATTACKED BY THESE RELIGIOUS LEADERS. WE SEE THE 4 LEVELS OF CONFLICT.

1. INTELLECTUAL
2. EMOTIONAL
3. VERBAL ABUSE
4. VIOLENCE

John 8:47-59 New International Version

47 Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason
you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

48 The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you
are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"

49 "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my
Father and you dishonor me. 50 I am not seeking glory for
myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.
51 Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see
death."

52 At this they exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-
possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say
that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. 53 Are you
greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the
prophets. Who do you think you are?”

54 Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My
Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies
me. 55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did
not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his
word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing
my day; he saw it and was glad.”

57 “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you
have seen Abraham!”

58 “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was
born, I am!” 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but
Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

INCREASE OUR FAITH TODAY LORD

John 8:47-48 New International Version

47 Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason
you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”

48 The Jews answered him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you
are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?”

THE JEWISH LEADERS COULD NOT FIND ANY EVIDENCE TO CONVICT JESUS OF SIN SO THEY THROW OUT RACIAL SLURS AND BLASPHEMOUS STATEMENTS. THE JEWS HATED SAMARITANS (HALF BREEDS). THIS IS AN OLD TRICK. WHEN THERE IS NO CASE, ABUSE THE PLANTIFF

John 8:49-50 New International Version

49 "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. 50 I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.

JESUS TOTALLY IGNORES THE RACIAL SLUR AND ANSWERS DIRECTLY TO THE BLASPHEMY

Philippians 2:5-11 New International Version

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!
9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

WHEN PEOPLE GET CRAZY WITH YOU, BE LIKE JESUS. THE GLORY IS ALL GOD'S GLORY. YOUR FLESH (EGO) WILL BE UPSET. KILL IT ANYWAY.

John 8:51-52 New International Version

51 Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death."

52 At this they exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death.

JESUS IS OFFERING A MERCIFUL PROMISE AND INVITATION BY TALKING ABOUT THE SECOND DEATH. THE DEATH THAT KILLS FOR ETERNITY. THE JEWS ARE STUCK IN THE MINDSET OF THE PHYSICAL HERE AND NOW. CHURCH, WE MUST KEEP OUR MINDS ON HEAVENLY THINGS. OBEYING GOD'S WORD CAN BE DIFFICULT AT TIMES AND EASY AT TIMES, IT IS ALWAYS THE RIGHT WAY. THE ROOT IS BELIEVING HIS WORD, THE FRUIT IS OBEYING HIS WORD

EITHER JESUS IS GOD THE SON OR HE'S A MADMAN. THE ETERNAL FATE OF EVERY HUMAN BEING HANGS ON THIS DECISION.

John 8:53-54 New International Version

53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

54 Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me.

JESUS COULD HAVE ANSWERED THAT QUESTION TRUTHFULLY IN MANY WAYS, BUT HE DIDN’T. HE HAS ALREADY STATED TRUTH AND HE HAS NO REASON TO GLORIFY HIMSELF. GOD THE FATHER GLORIFIES AND ELEVATES THE SON. THIS IS WHY PAUL SAYS, “IF I BOAST ABOUT ANYTHING, I BOAST ABOUT MY WEAKNESS”. IN OUR ACKNOWLEGEMENT OF WEAKNESS, THE POWER OF GOD IS AT WORK (IN US AND THROUGH US)

John 8:55-56 New International Version

55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”

MIC DROP

REMEMBER, JESUS IS NOT BEING CONFRONTATIONAL FOR THE SAKE OF BEING DIFFICULT. HE STANDS IN TRUTH AND HE SPEAKS WITH MERCY AND GRACE

IF YOU KNEW GOD, YOU WOULD KNOW AND BELIEVE THAT I AM HIS SON. THIS WOULD CAUSE YOU TO LOVE THE SON AND SUBMIT AND OBEY HIS WORD. EVERYTHING ELSE IS JUST FALSE RELIGION CONTROLLED BY SATAN

YOUR LINEAGE, ABRAHAM YOUR FATHER LOOKED FORWARD TO MESSIAH COMING TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE. YET, MESSIAH STANDS BEFORE YOU AND YOU REJECT HIM AND WANT TO KILL HIM

Hebrews 11:13-16 New International Version

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. **14** People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. **15** If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

JUST AS THE OT BELIEVERS LOOKED FORWARD, SO SHOULD WE. THERE IS A HEAVENLY HOME FOR ALL WHO LIVE BY FAITH IN GOD (THE FATHER, THE SON, THE HOLY SPIRIT). THIS IS A PROMISE FROM ALMIGHTY GOD WHO CANNOT LIE!!

John 8:57-58 New International Version

57 "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

58 "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

I AM/EGO EIMI/ETERNALLY PRESENT

ABRAHAM WAS 2,000 YEARS BEFORE JESUS. WE ARE 2,000 YEARS AFTER JESUS. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE!! THE I AM STATEMENT MEANS JESUS HAS ALWAYS EXISTED WITH THE FATHER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE GODHEAD IN PERFECT UNITY, CREATOR OF ALL THINGS SEEN AND UNSEEN!!

John 8:59 New International Version

59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

INSTEAD OF FALLING ON THEIR FACES IN REVERENCE, THEY PICKED UP STONES TO KILL HIM. HIS TIME HAD NOT YET COME

EVERYONE IS FACED WITH THIS ETERNAL TRUTH. YOU EITHER FALL ON YOUR FACE TO WORSHIP HIM (HEART POSTURE) WHICH LEADS TO LIFE ETERNALLY WITH GOD, (PERFECT LIGHT, LIFE, PEACE, JOY, AND GLORY) OR YOU REJECT HIM (HEART POSTURE) WHICH LEADS TO DEATH ETERNALLY WITHOUT GOD (DARKNESS, DEATH, AGONY, SADNESS, AND DAMNATION)

IF YOU HAVE NOT MADE A CHOICE, I PRAY YOU MAKE THE RIGHT ONE TODAY

END