

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

Before Abraham...I AM
John 8:48-59
July 31, 2022

So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." - John 8:57-58

I. OF SAMARITANS AND DEMONS

- The Jewish crowd does not take kindly to Jesus questioning their birthright (John 8:31-47).
- Devoid of a solid rational defense, the Jews resort to *ad hominem* attacks. Jesus is not so quickly dismissed (Vs. 48; Matt. 12:22-28; Mark 3:22; John 7:20).
- The crowd has dishonored Jesus, but that is of little consequence to him. He did not come seeking glory, but God does, and we will all stand before him (Vss. 49-50; Isa. 42:8-9; John 17:1-5).

II. THE TASTE OF DEATH

- Death is the destiny of all people...except those who keep the words of Jesus. For them, death has lost its sting (Vss. 51-53; 1 Cor. 15:50-58).

III. FATHER ABRAHAM

- The crowd grows impatient with Jesus. Does he truly believe that he is greater than the patriarch Abraham, who died in spite of his great standing before God? (Vs. 53; John 4:12; Heb. 3:3)
- Once again the question is: "Who do you make yourself out to be?" (Matt. 11:3; Mark 4:41, 8:29; Luke 20:2; John 1:22, 8:25).
- Jesus knows the Father like none other. To say otherwise would be, for Jesus, a contradiction and lie (Vs. 55).
- Abraham saw Jesus' day, and he rejoiced in it (Vs. 56).

IV. THE GREAT I AM

- Jesus was not only alive when Abraham lived, he is the eternally present one. He is the eternally begotten one (John 1:14).
- Jesus can only reveal who he is by revealing the Trinity (Gen. 3:15; Ex. 3:14; John 3:35, 5:21, 6:40, 6:57, 8:18, 10:30).

KNOW: Jesus of Nazareth transcends time. He was in existence before Abraham; he existed as the Incarnate Son, and he exists now and forevermore.

DO: Know for certain Jesus' claims concerning himself. He claims to be timeless. He claims to be God.

Suggested Reading:

Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith
by Michael Reeves (Available in the LifePoint Library).

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read John 8:48-59

1. Why is the Jewish crowd so defiant toward Jesus in this narrative?
2. Why do they accuse Jesus of demon-possession and tainted blood as a Samaritan? What are they implying?
3. How can Jesus say that believers will "never see death" when everyone dies?
4. How is Jesus greater than Abraham?
5. From where does Jesus receive his glory? Is he not glorious himself? Does this tell us anything about the Trinity?
6. What does it mean for Jesus to be "transcendent?" If it is true, what does it tell us about him?
7. What application is there for you in this text?