FOLLOWING THE PATH OF JESUS

A Harmony Of the Gospels

A Daily Devotional Study Guide - Book 2



"Offering Mercy"

Study: John 7:53-8:11
Reading: Ephesians 4:17-32, Matthew 18:21-35
Memory: Review1 John 1

Years ago, I talked with a man in his early twenties who was irate about a spiritual leader he knew who had been involved in sin. This young man could not understand how this leader could do what he did and the young man took a very harsh and unforgiving stance against this man who had been a leader. Several years later, I talked to that young man and he asked me to forgive him for his harshness. This young man had given into some of the same temptations his former leader had been involved in and the young man now realize how easy it was to justify his actions while condemning the actions of others.

Today, we will read about the great grace and mercy that Christ offered and will see how this contrasted the actions and attitudes of the religious leaders.

What Does the Bible Say?

Depending on what translation you have, today's passage might be marked off or it could be stated that this passage might not have been part of the original manuscript. Some of the most significant and earliest Greek manuscripts exclude this passage and there is no commentary on this from the early church fathers. Much of the evidence leads to the thought that this was an oral tradition which had been passed down for centuries and at some point was included in the text. That being said, we are not fully sure if this was part of the original Bible or not, but the meaning of the passage can be backed up by other teachings in Scripture.

The passage described how many people went home after the Feast of Tabernacles, but that Jesus went to the Mount of Olives where He spent the night. The next day, He traveled back to the temple where He once again taught those who were in the temple. While there, the scribes and pharisees attempted to trick Jesus and brought to Him a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. It is unclear how they caught her and why the man she was with was not also brought. When they brought her before Jesus they declared how the law stated that she needed to be

stoned to death for her act. They wanted to know what Jesus had to say about the situation. This was an attempt to trap Jesus between mercy and the Law and it appeared that there was no easy answer (7:53-8:6).

The response of Jesus was quite simple and quite interesting. He bent down to the ground and wrote something on the ground with His finger. This story has puzzled many people because no one has a clue what Jesus wrote. There is also a question about how He wrote. Naturally, you would think He wrote this in the dirt, but He was in the temple and the temple area was paved with large blocks, though in the dusty region it would be easy for dust and dirt to collect in spots. After Jesus first wrote, they continued to ask Him about the woman and He bent down and wrote again. He told them that whoever didn't have sin in his own life could be the first one to cast a stone at the woman. This time, they paid attention to what He was writing and one by one they left Jesus alone and abandoned their quest to stone the woman. No one knows what Jesus wrote but it had to be something that caused great conviction and revealed to the leaders the reality of their own sin (vs 7-9).

Once Jesus was finished writing and stood up, He asked the woman where her accusers were. She realized that no one was left and He told her that He was not going to condemn her, He sent her on her way, but told her not to continue in the sin that she had been involved in (vs 10-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you have a forgiving spirit when it comes to the sins of others? Do you find yourself easily excusing your sin and judging others in a harsh manner when they have done something to hurt you? It is so easy to overlook your shortcoming or justify your actions because they don't look near as bad to you as they do to others. Sin is sin and is wrong no matter who commits it, but you have to remember that when others do something wrong, not to judge them too harshly. After all, you could easily be involved in that same thing and not fully notice. Sometimes, it is easy to condemn others because they fall in an area where you are very strong in. Yet, you have to remember that you are weak in some areas where they are very strong. Yes, sin does need to be confronted and taken care of in a biblical, loving way, but at the same time, you need to confront with grace and mercy in your heart. Galatians 6:1 tells us that spiritual people should reach out and help others who are in sin but warns them to "keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted."

Where did Jesus go to teach the people (vs 2)?

Who did the scribes and Pharisees bring to Jesus (vs 3)?

How do you think they would have caught her in the act?

Why do you think they wanted to take her to Jesus?

What did they declare (vs 4-5)?

How do you think men who were religious leaders could be so harsh?

****It is much easier than you realize to become harsh and condemning the more religious you become. Being religious is not the same as being like Jesus. The religion that Jesus presented focused on being full of love, mercy and grace, while the religion of the Jews was centered in self-righteousness.*

Why would they want to test Jesus (vs 6)?

How did Jesus respond to this test (vs 6)?

What did Jesus declare (vs 7)?

Why do you think that He declared this?

What did Jesus do after His declaration (vs 8)?

How did the religious leaders respond (vs 9)?

Why do you think they all left?

What question did Jesus ask (vs 10)?

What did Jesus declare (vs 11)?

What do you think was the point of this narrative?

How can you find yourself acting like the religious leaders?

"The Light of the World"

Study: John 8:12-20
Reading: Psalm 119:98-112
Memory: Review1 John 1

When my family took a trip out to the Black Hills of South Dakota, we went on a tour of a cave. The cave itself was fascinating and the size of the whole cave system was enormous. The information that amazed me most about the cave though was how it was first explored. An enterprising young man started to explore the cave by himself with only a lantern. Then he started to take people on tours of the cave and charged a small fee for this tour. The amazing thing about this was that he did this with a few small lanterns. If his lamp or the few lamps they had with them went out, he and those he was with could have been trapped and lost their lives because there was no light at all in the cave.

Today, we are going to see how Jesus declared that He was the light of the world. The whole world was in darkness because of sin, but He was sent to be that light from His Father to provide hope to a dark and dying world.

What Does the Bible Say?

While teaching, Jesus once again declared that He was the "light of the world." We live in a culture that is full of lights because of electricity, but in those days the idea having a light was much more important and significant. The statement was also very significant because the Old Testament pictured the Messiah as a light and this declaration by Jesus was stating that He was the Messiah. He offered those who chose to follow Him light in this dark world. No longer did people have to stumble in darkness because of their sin. Jesus Christ came to be the light to direct them to the correct way to live their lives (vs 12).

The Pharisees responded in a mocking way by stating that Jesus was the only witness that would testify to the fact that He was the Messiah. It was clear in the Old Testament Law that at least two people needed to confirm something for a fact to be established and the Pharisees were saying that the testimony of Jesus was untrue because He was the only one who testified to it. This is really an untrue statement because the first part of John reveals how John the Baptist testified that Jesus was the Christ (vs 13).

Though Jesus understood their reasoning, He declared that He knew exactly who He was, where He came from and where He was going. They had no such confidence about themselves because they were mere humans and He was God in the flesh. The Pharisees were attempting to judge Jesus through their human eyes and therefore their judgment was inaccurate. The judgment of Jesus was different than that of the judgment of men because it was not flawed and limited. He chose not to judge based on personal bias or prejudice. Since He was God he could see the heart and would have no reason to judge people based on the things a person did on the outside (vs 14-16).

Understanding that the Law required two witnesses, Jesus declared that He was a witness of Himself and the Father was also a witness that He was the Son. They knew Jesus was referring to God as His Father, but they asked Him who His Father was so they could ask His Father. Jesus responded by declaring that they did not know His Father because if they had really known God, they would have known Jesus. This angered the Pharisees in a great way, but God hindered any of them from arresting Jesus because it was not yet time for Him to be crucified (vs 17-20).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you walking in the light that Jesus can give? Do you let Him light your path as you look to Him? Are you allowing His Word to be your guide to shine a light on your path in this dark, sinful world? Jesus came to be a light, but sadly, many believers don't fully follow the light that God is wanting to use to direct them. It is easy for you to choose to walk in your selfish path and stray from the light that will light your path. Ask God to show you any area of your life where you are not following the light.

Thought for the day

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What did Jesus declare He was (vs 12)?

What do you think He meant by this?

What happens to those who follow Jesus (vs 12)?

What do you think it means to walk in darkness (vs 12)?

How did the Pharisees try to disprove Jesus (vs 13)?

What proof did Jesus use to declare that His witness was true (vs 14)?

How did Jesus say the people judged (vs 15)?

Why do you think He said this?

If Jesus chose to judge, why would He be right (vs 16)?

Why do you think Jesus said that He wasn't going to judge?

****Jesus was not going to judge the same way the Pharisees judged. All of their judgement was based on the outward standards they had set for people to follow. Many of these were incorrect interpretations of God's standards. Jesus was not going to judge the same way men would judge because He was God.*

What two people did Jesus say could confirm the fact that He was the Messiah (vs 17-18)?

What did the Pharisees want to know (vs 19)?

Why do you think they wanted to know this?

Where was Jesus when He spoke these words (vs 20)?

What did not happen to Jesus (vs 20)?

Why do you think that John pointed this out?

"Set Free"

Study: John 8:21-32
Reading: Proverbs 2:1-22
Memory: Review1 John 1

Though I don't like running in the heat of summer, I definitely like running in the summer over any other time of year. I normally run outside during the winter, but I often have to wear several layers of clothes to keep me warm. It is always thrilling to me how much faster I can run in late spring and early summer when I am able to run in just shorts and a t-shirt. I am amazed at how much freer I feel and how much more enjoyable running is when I feel faster and lighter.

Today, we are going to see how Jesus came to free us from the weight and bondage of sin. We will read how He wants us to live in freedom from that darkness and to abide in His light.

What Does the Bible Say?

Continuing His teaching in the temple, Jesus declared that He was going to be going away. Once He was gone, they would still be seeking for the Messiah (as Jews still do today), but they will completely miss Him and die in their sins. Jesus was and still is the only way to God and eternal life and those who look for another way will not find deliverance from their sin and will not be able to go to heaven where Jesus is (vs 21).

This statement of Jesus puzzled the Jews as they wondered where He was going to go. One of the main opinions was that He was going to kill Himself because that was one of the only places where He could not be followed. Clarifying what He meant, Jesus described how He was from above while they were from below. They were of the world, but He was not. He was from heaven and had come to be the One who would forgive their sins. If they did not believe in Him, they had no hope. This was a bold and brash statement for anyone to make and the people challenged Him to declare who He was. The answer of Jesus had not changed from the beginning of His ministry up to this point. He declared that He was the One sent by "Him" to declare "Him" and the way of salvation to the world. The "Him" was a reference to God the Father, though most of

those listening didn't understand that Jesus was saying that He was from the Father (vs 22-27).

The proof that He was the Son of God would come when they lifted Him up on a cross to die for the sins of men. All of the actions that Jesus had done and would do were in obedience to God and the sovereign plan to deliver men from their sin (vs 28-29).

Though many rejected His words, there were also many who heard, understood and believed. Jesus told those who believed to abide in Him and His words. Living out the words of Jesus would bear witness that those who claimed to believe did believe and became disciples. The truth is what would set them free from their sin. As they followed the teachings of Jesus, they would understand more and more of the truth (vs 30-32).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you abiding in His Words? Do you feel the freedom that comes from following Christ? Are you living like a disciple of Christ? The way to know the truth is to abide in and by the words of Christ. Before you can abide "by" them, you have to abide "in" them. That means that the more you spend time in the Word of God, the more you will know about God and His plan for your life. The more you know His plan, the more you will be able to allow Him to free you from your sin and live a life that is set apart for God. Sadly, many believers believe in Jesus, but are often still trapped in living their own way because they do not abide in Him. They do not live with the freedom that God desires them to have because they are still in bondage to their sin or to a set of religious rules and guidelines. Make it one of your hearts desires to know more of the truth found in the Word of God and you will be amazed how that truth will set you free.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank God for the freedom that He gives through His Word.*
* *Ask God to help you abide in Him.*
* *Praise God because He has the ability to free you from sin.*

Thought for the day

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What did Jesus say He was going to do (vs 21)?

Why would they not be able to go where He was going (vs 21)?

What do you think it meant that they were going to die in their sin (vs 21)?

What did the religious leader think Jesus might do (vs 22)?

How did Jesus compare Himself to the religious leaders (vs 23)?

What would happen to those who chose not to believe in Jesus (vs 24)?

What did the Jews want to know (vs 25)?

Why do you think Jesus said He had much he could have judged (vs 26)?

****There are many things that Jesus could have pointed out about the sins of the religious leaders, but His purpose was not to condemn them. He had come to help set the world free from their sin.*

What did Jesus say He chose to declare (vs 26)?

What did the religious leaders not understand (vs 27)?

When did Jesus say they would realize that He was God (vs 28)?

Why did Jesus emphasize over and over again that He was simply carrying out the will of His Father (vs 28)?

What did Jesus declare about His actions (vs 29)?

Why were His actions always this way (vs 29?

What did the teachings of Jesus result in (vs 30)?

What will true disciples do (vs 31)?

How will the truth set a person free?

"Open to the Truth"

Study: John 8:33-43
Reading: Galatians 5:1-26
Memory: Review1 John 1

What Does the Bible Say?

The declaration by Jesus describing how He would set the Jews free puzzled them. They didn't understand how they would be set free because they felt that they had never been slaves of anyone. In the history of Israel it is very clear that they had been slaves, but it appears that the meaning of their statement about not being slaves is that they had always kept their spiritual freedom to worship the God of Israel. Most other nations that were conquered in history assimilated into the other nations and worshiped their gods, eventually losing their spiritual independence. Though the Israelites did struggle with false gods, they had kept their religion for thousands of years. This was longer than any other existing nation (vs 33).

Attempting to get the people to understand that He was speaking on a deeper level, Jesus told them that those who committed sin were slaves to sin. Though slaves worked in a house, they would not have any type of inheritance passed down to them like children would. True sons would receive the blessings of the Father. People were not set free because they were descendants of Abraham, but would only be set free because they believed in the Son of God and that would make them descendants of God. The Jews prided themselves in the fact that they were physical descendants of Abraham, yet they sought to kill the Son of God. This was clear evidence that they were only outwardly claiming to be the children of God, but had never followed Him with their hearts (vs 34-37).

One of the great differences between the teachings of Jesus and that of the Jews is that Jesus was sharing the truth from His heavenly Father while the Jewish leaders were sharing the traditions that had been passed down to them from their earthly fathers. The Jews responded to this by declaring that Abraham was their father, but Jesus rebuked this response by declaring that if they were truly the children of Abraham they would be living like Abraham lived. Instead of heeding the truth and listening to the messengers of God like Abraham did, they were seeking to kill the messenger (vs 38-40).

Jesus described how the people were simply doing the same thing their father's did. By this, Jesus was referring to the sinful deeds that their forefathers had practiced. The Jews denied this, declaring that they had one Father and that Father was God. They were not children born out of spiritual immorality. They were not children of a mixed spiritual race, but they were Jews and proud of it. They were mixing their national heritage with their spiritual heritage, but Jesus made it clear that they were not children of God. If they were, they would have loved the Son of God. Jesus wasn't on the earth because He chose to be there but was simply following the will of His Father. Though He was from God, the people couldn't bear to listen to Him because He was declaring something different to them than they had understood their whole lives. They had tradition passed down to them, but that tradition lost the truth of God (vs 41-43).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Is Jesus your spiritual heritage? Are you a son who is striving to do the will of your Father? Are you trusting your tradition more than you are trusting the Word of God? Sometimes, when reading about the Pharisees you wonder, "How come they didn't get it?" Yet, it is so much easier to see the shortcomings and flaws in the life of another person than it is to see your own. The Pharisees thought they were 100% right because they were following the direction of those who passed down the teaching to them, but they missed much of what God really wanted for their lives. You must be careful as well that you don't get too caught up in a denomination or a way a church does things. Churches establish guidelines and standards for a reason, but those things can become equal with Scripture if you are not guided by Scripture. You must be willing to let your mind be changed when you are confronted with the truth of the Word of God. You must let God's Word become more important than any tradition or religious rule that has been passed down.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you continually approach His Word with an open mind and heart.*
* *Thank God for giving you the truth through His Word.*
* *Praise God because He has made you His child.*

Why did the people declare they were offspring of Abraham (vs 33)?

Why do you think they declared they had never been enslaved to anyone (vs 33)?

What didn't they understand about freedom?

What did Jesus declare about those who practiced sin (vs 34)?

What do you think it means to be a slave to sin (vs 34)?

Who does Jesus differentiate between (vs 35)?

How will a person truly be set free (vs 36)?

What did Jesus recognize about the Jewish people (vs 37)?

Why did they still seek to kill Jesus (vs 37)?

What did Jesus mean by His statement about their different fathers (vs 38)?

What were the Jews insistent about (vs 39)?

Why do you think they were under the assumption that their bloodline made all the difference?

What did Jesus say they would do if they were children of Abraham (vs 40)?

Why did Jesus say they sought to kill Him (vs 40)?

How was this opposite of what Abraham did?

What works were the Jews doing (vs 41)?

What did Jesus say about the Father (vs 42)?

Why could the people not understand (vs 43)?

"Their Father, the Devil"

Study: John 8:44-49
Reading: II Corinthians 11:1-15, Luke 4:1-13
Memory: Review1 John 1

Most people who know me, know that I exercise a lot and that physical activity is a major part of my life. I will be the first to admit that I really don't like having to exercise all the time, though I do enjoy the benefits. Why do I exercise so much? Because I am my father's child. No, my dad didn't exercise much. In fact, he didn't exercise much at all and that is why I choose to exercise. My dad was overweight and could not do a lot of things with me when I was a kid because of it. From the age of 11 or 12, I determined in my mind that I was going to be disciplined so that I would not put on too much weight so that I would be able to do physical things with my children. This commitment was renewed when my father died of a heart attack two days before his 52nd birthday. I clearly understood from a young age that if I didn't actively choose to be different, I would naturally end up like my father in the specific area of my weight and physical conditioning.

Today, we are going to see how unless we choose differently, we will naturally follow the devil because we are born with him as our spiritual father. We must choose to allow the adoption that God offers to take place in order to become part of His family. We must allow Him to become our Heavenly Father, and when we do so, we will act and live like He desires.

What Does the Bible Say?

The Jews were not only following the traditions of their earthly father, but they were following the leading of their spiritual father. Jesus declared that their father was the Devil and they were simply living like their spiritual father wanted them to live. From the time of his fall, Satan was the father of lies and loved nothing more than to deceive people. He was a murderer, not of physical life, but of spiritual life. Everything he speaks is a lie or a slight distortion of the truth, attempting to get people to commit evil.

It is very interesting to note that most people thought the Jewish

religious leaders were the people closest to God, but Jesus rebutted that thought by declaring that they were of the devil. We often think of Satanists or wicked cults as having the Devil as their leaders, and though this may be true, Jesus described how it was the religious people of that day who were direct descendants of the Devil (vs 44).

Jesus was rejected by many of the people, specifically the spiritual leaders because He told the truth. Jesus asked the people if they had seen Him commit any sin. Sure, at His trial they hired false witnesses to accuse Him, though each one of them had a hard time agreeing about what He did wrong. They could find no fault in Him. His teaching and miracles were like no other person, and yet, they would not believe in Him. If the Jews were really of God, they would hear the Words which God spoke, but they weren't of God because God was speaking through Jesus and they would not hear Him (vs 45-47).

The Jews responded by saying they were right when they declared that Jesus was either a Samaritan or had a demon. (Samaritans were looked at as evil because they could not be children of God). Jesus responded by declaring that He did not have a demon, but that the people were dishonoring the God they claimed to be worshiping because they were dishonoring the Son (vs 48-49).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize who Satan is and the great power he has to deceive? II Corinthians 11:14 describes how Satan disguises himself as an "angel of light." From the beginning, His whole plan has been to deceive men from following God. In order to deceive, he often makes things look very close to the truth, but distorts the truth. This is why biblical discernment is so important in life. Things that might look right on the surface could have powerful consequences because they are based on deception. Think of the temptations of Jesus. Satan quoted Scripture and even challenged Jesus to trust God, yet he put a slight bend on it that would make it sin. Though I am sure Satan loves to be worshiped, I think he equally loves creating false religions that are close to true godliness in order to make people live like the Pharisees. They think they are on track and doing the "right thing" but in actuality they are following Satan while believing they are following God. This is quite a scary thought and the way to avoid being deceived is by constantly going to the source of truth which is the Word of God.

What had Jesus just finished declaring in verses 42-43?

Who did Jesus say their real father was (vs 44)?

Why do you think Jesus declared this?

What did Jesus say was the desire of the Jewish religious leaders (vs 44)?

Why do you think Jesus made such a powerful accusation?

How is the devil described in verse 44?

Why do you think Jesus called him a murderer (vs 44)?

Why is it important to realize that the devil is the "father of lies" (vs 44)?

Why did the religious leaders not believe Jesus (vs 45)?

Do you think you can ever act like the religious leaders in this way? Explain.

Why would no one be able to accuse Jesus of sin (vs 46)?

Why do you think they chose not to believe the truth?

Who hears the words of God (vs 47)?

What is clear evidence that a person is not a follower of God (vs 47)?

What did the Jews accuse Jesus of (vs 48)?

Why do you think they accused Jesus of this?

Why was Jesus acting the way that He was acting (vs 49)?

What were the religious leaders doing by dishonoring Jesus (vs 49)?

What practical lesson can you learn from today's reading?

"Before Abraham Was, I Am"

Study: John 8:50-59
Reading: Exodus 3:1-22 (notice the phrase "I am")
Memory: Review 1 John 1

It is interesting how phone etiquette has changed over the years with the rise of new technology. One thing that people do less and less of is introduce themselves when a person they are calling answers the phone. This is because most people assume you look at caller ID first before you answer and you already know who they are, especially if you are a close friend or relative. Occasionally, I will have people call me and start talking to me, and I have absolutely no idea who they are. Sometimes I figure it out by the voice or the subject of their conversation, but there are times where I just have to stop them and ask them who they are because what they are telling me is extremely confusing. Knowing the identity of a person greatly assists with my understanding of what they are saying. Today we will read how the people did not know who Jesus was so they could not understand what He was saying, even though He told them who He was.

What Does the Bible Say?

The focus of Jesus was not on exalting himself but was on exalting the Father. Jesus declared that it was God who should receive all the glory. It was God who was going to make the judgment about what was true. It was God who decides who will face eternal damnation and who will spend eternity with Him. The decision of the Father was not an arbitrary choice, nor was it based on any prejudice. Jesus made it clear that whoever listened to Him and kept the Word that He was declaring would escape eternal damnation (death) and would have eternal life with God (vs 50-51).

The Jews thought they had caught Jesus teaching some outlandish doctrine because even their greatest forefathers had died, and now He was declaring those who truly believed in God would not die. Jesus was declaring that He was greater than Abraham, which would be pretty much impossible in their eyes. Jesus again directed their attention back to the Father and deflected praise and glory from Himself. The Father who He

was talking about was the One that they claimed was their God, but they really didn't know Him. Jesus knew Him intimately and personally because He was God, yet the people didn't know the God that Jesus knew (vs 52-55).

Abraham rejoiced when he reached an understanding regarding the day that the Messiah would come. Though we are unsure how much Abraham knew of the full plan of God, we know that He looked forward to the day when all the people of the earth would be blessed through his seed (Genesis 12:3). The point that Jesus was making was that they claimed to be children of Abraham but did not see spiritually like Abraham did. Yes, they were physical descendants of Abraham, but in spirit, they were not like Him (vs 56).

Claiming that it was impossible for Jesus to know Abraham and know what Abraham thought, the Jews completely rejected what Jesus was saying. They declared that He was not even 50 years old yet and that there was no way He could know Abraham. To this, Jesus responded with the statement, "Before Abraham was, I am." This was a powerful, bold statement made by Jesus since He was claiming to be the Messiah and claiming to be God. The people were so angry at this statement that they picked up stones to throw at Jesus. Knowing the danger, Jesus quickly removed Himself from the temple mount to avoid any further altercations (vs 57-59).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you see real spiritual truth? Do you miss what God is really attempting to teach you because of your own spiritual prejudice? Do you approach the Word of God with a completely open mind, or do you let the teaching of men distort what God really says? Many of the Jews missed out on Jesus and all the great blessings He had waiting for them because they had it set in their minds how things should be. They didn't let the truth of Jesus change their minds to how things really were. It is easy for many people who grow up in a Christian environment to do the same. It is easy to establish a certain view of Christianity, and then when faced with a different view, it is tough to understand or change. This is because the form of religion often becomes the center focus of how a person lives rather than what God said. It is important to approach the Word of God with an open heart. This will allow you to let the Bible determine right from wrong in your life rather than a prescribed man made set of rules or guidelines.

What did Jesus not seek (vs 50)?

Who does seek glory (vs 50)?

If God is seeking glory for Himself, does this mean that He is full of pride? Explain.

Why is God called the judge (vs 50)?

Why do you think Jesus used the term "truly, truly" (vs 51 - ESV)?

What did Jesus promise to those who keep His Word (vs 51)?

Does this mean that you are saved by the works that you do? Explain.

What did the Jews say the words of Jesus proved (vs 52)?

What reasoning did they use (vs 52)?

Why did they have a hard time believing Jesus (vs 53)?

What did Jesus say about glorifying Himself (vs 54)?

What do you think He meant by this?

What did Jesus declare about the knowledge of God (vs 55)?

What would make Jesus a liar (vs 55)?

What did Abraham rejoice about (vs 56)?

What do you think verse 56 meant?

What did the Jews rebuke Jesus for (vs 57)?

What powerful statement did Jesus make (vs 58)?

What was the response of the religious leaders (vs 59)? Why do you think they responded this way?

Memory Verses

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.