

WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY

The Glory of Abraham's Offspring(s)

INTRODUCTION

This argument of Jesus with the Jews is one of the most caustic, scathing, blistering, abrasive, derisive debates in the Bible. It all centers around the question of paternity: "Who's your Daddy?" I plan to preach this text by first reading it and then summarizing the narrative. There is a clear point to be drawn from this debate of Jesus with the Pharisees. And by God's grace, I want to apply this to your life and mine. First, we will read the text.

TEXT: [John 8:31–47 \(ESV\)](#)

THE STORY

It all started with Jesus claim that He was the true Son; and that truth He speaks will set people free. These Jews responded that they are free. But Jesus meant free from sin. He taught that those who practice sin – the verb is present, active, meaning continue to live in, abide in, sin, is a slave to sin. (A person born of God is defined differently: "*No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.*" (1 John 3:9, ESV)).

They argue that they are free because they are the offspring of Abraham; because of their pedigree. Now Jesus makes what some would call a gross contradiction: He says in verse 37, "I know that you are offspring of Abraham;" but then in verse 39, he says, "If you were Abraham's children, you would . . ." This seeming contradiction is resolved by Paul who will tell us "For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel."¹ If they were Abraham's children (i.e., the children of faith, the children of promise) they would do what Abraham did, namely obey ("*I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.*" (Genesis 26:4–5, ESV))

With Jesus questioning their pedigree, the Jews respond caustically and question his – implying he was the illegitimate son of Joseph. They retort that their father was God. But, Jesus said, if God were your Father, you'd love me.

He says that they don't understand this because their father is neither God, nor Abraham, but their father was the Devil and they have the morality of the Devil. I don't think Jesus is being very politically correct! He says that they follow Satan's desires, they lie like he does; and murder like he does.

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ro 9:6). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

THE MAIN POINT

There are only two options in life.

- 1) We are either children of the Devil or children of Abraham. Because of their nature and their corruption, the children of the Devil, neither know God, love God nor comprehend the Truth. They are slaves to sin. This truth is adequately summed up by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:1–3 (ESV): *“¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”*

The other option is that:

- 2) We are children of Abraham through faith in Jesus Christ (*“And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”* Galatians 3:29, ESV). We have been freed from sin and we know the Truth. Our lives are defined by love for God and obedience. *“But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.”* (Romans 6:17–18, ESV)

CONCLUSION

There are two races, two groups, two paths, two destinies in life. We are either on the one or the other. We are either the offspring of Satan, expressing all his characteristics, or we are the offspring of Abraham, through faith in Christ, expressing all his characteristics. The ultimate question is, “Who’s your daddy?”

APPLICATION

There might be someone here this morning wondering just that question. Who is your daddy? Thankfully Jesus helps us. In this debate, recorded for us by John, Jesus uses the word “if” 5 times. Each time he gives us an indication of “who are daddy is”. Please note:

1. *“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, **IF** you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,”* (John 8:31, ESV)
2. *“So **IF** the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”* (John 8:36, ESV)

3. *"They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "IF you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did," (John 8:39, ESV)*
4. *"Jesus said to them, "IF God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me." (John 8:42, ESV)*
5. *"Which one of you convicts me of sin? IF I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?" (John 8:46, ESV)*

If you are born of God? If your Father is God; and if you are a child of Abraham through faith in Jesus Christ, then the following is true:

1. To abide in His Word is to mean that you continue to believe, continue to persevere in faith. To this Jesus says, "You will know that you really are His disciple."
2. To be united with Christ means you are set free from sin. The unbeliever can't help but sin because of their nature. The Christian is able not to sin, because Christ has rendered sin impotent. (Romans 6:14).
3. To be an offspring of Abraham through faith in Christ means that we do what Abraham did, i.e., walk in obedience.
4. If you are born of God, you would love Jesus. That deep affection for Christ would rule and regulate your life.
5. The Christian is one who believes that Jesus is the Truth and, on those grounds, we trust no other. He is our source, our hope for life and godliness.

If those characteristics are evident in our lives in continuing measure that is clear evidence that God is our Father and Christ is our Savior. If not, I ask you to humbly turn to Christ today for salvation.