

John Chapter Eight

Read **John 8:1-11** – The Adulterous Woman

v.1-2 “JESUS WENT UNTO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES. AND EARLY IN THE MORNING HE CAME AGAIN INTO THE TEMPLE AND ALL THE PEOPLE CAME UNTO HIM; AND HE SAT DOWN, AND TAUGHT THEM.”

At the end of chapter seven the Sanhedrin meeting concerning Jesus broke up and they went home. It was apparently at this time that when Jesus and his apostles were in Jerusalem they started spending the nights outside of the city on or near the Mount of Olives. This is the earliest mention of the mount in the gospel records. It is situated east of the city and from there you can overlook Jerusalem.

The Mount of Olives is also called Olivet and the towns of Bethany and Bethphage are located on its eastern slope. The home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus was in Bethany but we're not told that he stayed there at this time.

The next morning he returns to the temple and continued his teaching.

v.3 “AND THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES BROUGHT UNTO A WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY; AND WHEN THEY HAD SET HER IN THE MIDST.”

We're told that some of the early manuscripts do not include the account of Jesus encounter with the Scribes and Pharisees over this woman. Also some commentators contend that the account is not genuine. But the gathering of large number of Bible texts called the “Textus Receptus”, upon which the King James translation is based includes it.

v.4 “THEY SAY UNTO HIM, MASTER, THIS WOMAN WAS TAKEN IN ADULTRY, IN THE VERY ACT.”

Two things we can note from this verse. First of all they are not bringing this woman to Jesus to learn something or because they valued his judgment but for an ulterior purpose as we shall see in verse 6. Secondly they call him “Master”. There is no question that Jesus was a master teacher but again their acknowledgment of that probably isn't sincere but more likely done to try to throw him off guard.

v.5 “NOW MOSES IN THE LAW COMMANDED US, THAT SUCH SHOULD BE STONED: BUT WHAT SAYEST THOU?”

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The Mosaic Law was very plain concerning the punishment for adultery.

Deuteronomy 22:22 “IF A MAN BE FOUND LYING WITH A WOMAN MARRIED TO AN HUSBAND, THEN THEY SHALL BOTH OF THEM DIE, *both* THE MAN THAT LAY WITH THE WOMAN, AND THE WOMAN: SO SHALT THOU PUT AWAY EVIL FROM ISRAEL.”

When we understand the situation that Jews lived under at this time we can see even more clearly the purpose that this question was asked. Even though the Mosaic Law commanded that an adulterer be stoned to death, that law had not been enforced for some time. One of the reasons was that under Roman rule the Jews were forbidden to exercise capital punishment without Roman approval. Since adultery was not a capital offense under Roman law such approval would not be given.

v.6 “THIS THEY SAID, TEMPTING HIM, THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE TO ACCUSE HIM. BUT JESUS STOOPED DOWN, AND WITH *his* FINGER WROTE ON THE GROUND *as though he heard them not.*”

The scribes and Pharisees think that they have Jesus in a quandary. If he upholds the Mosaic Law then he is in violation of Roman law, the law of the land at that time and they can bring an accusation against him. If He upholds Roman law then he would be going against the Mosaic Law and also would provide them the excuse they are seeking to accuse him. Jesus doesn't answer directly, He is patient and knows that if given the opportunity they would press their point and, as we would say, get themselves in deeper. So for a moment he appears to ignore them.

v.7 “SO WHEN THEY CONTINUED ASKING HIM, HE LIFTED UP HIMSELF, AND SAID UNTO THEM, HE THAT IS WITHOUT SIN AMONG YOU, LET HIM FIRST CAST A STONE AT HER.”

When the punishment of stoning is required, the Mosaic Law was also explicit about who should do the stoning.

Deuteronomy 17:7 “THE HANDS OF THE WITNESSES SHALL BE FIRST UPON HIM TO PUT HIM TO DEATH, AND AFTERWARD THE HANDS OF ALL THE PEOPLE. SO THOU SHALT PUT THE EVIL AWAY FROM AMONG YOU.”

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So Jesus turns the tables on them. He puts them in the position having to execute their own judgment, just as the Law required. The Apostle Paul writes about those who would judge others when they are just as guilty themselves:

Romans 2:1 "THEREFORE THOU ART INEXCUSABLE, O MAN, WHOSOEVER THOU ART THAT JUDGEST: FOR WHEREIN THOU JUDGEST ANOTHER, THOU CONDEMNEST THYSELF; FOR THOU THAT JUDGEST DOEST THE SAME THINGS."

This is also the essence of the warning in **Matthew 7:1** where we're told to "JUDGE NOT, THAT YE BE NOT JUDGED".

v.8 "AND AGAIN HE STOOPED DOWN AND WROTE ON THE GROUND."

Jesus knows what result his response will bring so he stoops down again to provide a little time for them to think about the condition of their own souls and their responsibility in this judgment.

v.9 "AND THEY WHICH HEARD *it*, BEING CONVICTED BY *their own* CONSCIENCE, WENT OUT ONE BY ONE, BEGINNING AT THE ELDEST, *even* UNTO THE LAST: AND JESUS WAS LEFT ALONE, AND THE WOMAN STANDING IN THE MIDST."

As would be expected Jesus applies the Mosaic Law perfectly. The woman was guilty of sin punishable by death. Those who were witnesses against her were responsible for carrying out that punishment. He added but one stipulation; that the one who cast the first stone is to be without sin, or as some commentators contend, they must not be guilty of the same sin of adultery. None of them had a conscience that would allow them to act; so they slink off like dogs that have just been whipped.

v.10 "WHEN JESUS HAD LIFTED UP HIMSELF, AND SAW NONE BUT THE WOMAN, HE SAID UNTO HER, WOMAN, WHERE ARE THOSE THINE ACCUSERS? HATH NO MAN CONDEMNED THEE?"

So the woman no longer has any accusers. She has been left standing before Jesus alone, probably wondering what to do and afraid to flee.

v.11 "SHE SAID, NO MAN, LORD. AND JESUS SAID UNTO HER, NEITHER DO I CONDEMN THEE: GO, AND SIN NO MORE."

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There are none left to execute the punishment required by the Law so Jesus shows this woman compassion and mercy. She now has the opportunity to change her life and live according to the Law:

“FOR GOD SENT NOT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD; BUT THAT THE WORLD THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE SAVED.” **John 3:17**

And Jesus’ instruction to her was similar to that given the man healed at the Pool of Bethesda:

John 5:14 “AFTERWARD JESUS FINDETH HIM IN THE TEMPLE, AND SAID UNTO HIM, BEHOLD, THOU ART MADE WHOLE; SIN NO MORE, LEST A WORSE THING COME UPON THEE.”

Does this mean that Jesus condoned the woman’s sin? Absolutely not, no more than he condones sin today. But when we repent of sin and obey His commands our sin is removed.

Read **John 8:12-32** – Jesus Light of the World

v.12 “THEN SPAKE JESUS AGAIN UNTO THEM, SAYING, I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME SHALL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS, BUT SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE.”

This is an analogy that Jesus uses extensively in his teaching and that John records faithfully. Jesus is Light where before there was only darkness:

John 1:4 “IN HIM WAS LIFE; AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.”

In him we find life, eternal life, and that is a revelation or light to guide men.

John 1:9 “*That* WAS THE TRUE LIGHT, WHICH LIGHTETH EVERY MAN THAT COMETH INTO THE WORLD.”

This light of life is true, genuine, complete and lights the way for any man who would be follow that light. We are guided in that light by His commandments:

I John 2:8 “AGAIN, A NEW COMMANDMENT I WRITE UNTO YOU, WHICH THING IS TRUE IN HIM AND IN YOU: BECAUSE THE DARKNESS IS PAST, AND THE TRUE LIGHT NOW SHINETH.”

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And if we walk in that light, follow those commandments, then we are cleansed of all sin and have fellowship with God:

I John 1:7 “BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP ONE WITH ANOTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.”

v.13 “THE PHARISEES, THEREFORE SAID UNTO HIM, THOU BEAREST RECORD OF THYSELF; THY RECORD IS NOT TRUE.”

Again the Pharisees accuse him of false testimony because they claim that he has no other witness who can verify his teaching. Jesus himself had said:

John 5:31 “IF I BEAR WITNESS OF MYSELF, MY WITNESS IS NOT TRUE.”

This is true under the rule of common sense; it was true under the Mosaic Law and is also true under the Law of Christ. Truth has to be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

v.14 “JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO THEM, THOUGH I BEAR RECORD OF MYSELF, *yet* MY RECORD IS TRUE: FOR I KNOW WHENCE I CAME, AND WHITHER I GO; BUT YE CANNOT TELL WHENCE I COME AND WHITHER I GO.”

Jesus says that his witness is true even though he is bearing record of himself. How can that be? Because he is God the Son or the Son of God, the Light of the world, therefore like God he cannot lie. Just as the Apostle Paul writes to Titus:

Titus 1:2 “IN HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE, WHICH GOD, THAT CANNOT LIE, PROMISED BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN;”

Since they do not recognize Him as the Son of God, don't know or recognize from whence He came, they cannot recognize that His record cannot be false as God record or that his testimony cannot be false.

v.15 “YE JUDGE AFTER THE FLESH, I JUDGE NO MAN.”

Those that accused him judged by outward appearance, they judged after the flesh or according to the ways of men. Jesus had already taught:

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“JUDGE NOT ACCORDING TO THE APPEARANCE, BUT JUDGE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT.” **John 7:24**

Christ did not come into the world to judge mankind, at least not at this point in time but rather to establish his kingdom. As he testified before Pilate:

John 18:36 “...MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD: IF MY KINGDOM WERE OF THIS WORLD, THEN WOULD MY SERVANTS FIGHT, THAT I SHOULD NOT BE DELIVERED TO THE JEWS; BUT NOW IS MY KINGDOM FROM HENCE.”

When that kingdom is established the He would rule over it as Lord and execute judgment accordingly. But he continues:

v.16 “AND YET IF I JUDGE, MY JUDGMENT IS TRUE: FOR I AM NOT ALONE, BUT I AND THE FATHER THAT SENT ME.”

Jesus tells them that if he would exercise judgment now His judgment would be true because it would be the judgment of God the Father who sent him. The time will come when they will understand that fact, without doubt:

John 8:29 “...WHEN YE HAVE LIFTED UP THE SON OF MAN, THEN SHALL YE KNOW THAT I AM *he*, AND *that* I DO NOTHING OF MYSELF; BUT AS MY FATHER HATH TAUGHT ME, I SPEAK THESE THINGS.”

v.17 “IT IS ALSO WRITTEN IN YOUR LAW, THAT THE TESTIMONY OF TWO WITNESSES IS TRUE.”

Once again he reminds them of the Law, of which they were very familiar:

Deuteronomy 17:6 “AT THE MOUTH OF TWO WITNESSES, OR THREE WITNESSES SHALL HE THAT IS WORTHY OF DEATH BE PUT TO DEATH; *but* AT THE MOUTH OF ONE WITNESS HE SHALL NOT BE PUT TO DEATH.”

A feature of the Mosaic Law that Jesus carried forward under the Law of Christ. First given in his own words:

Matthew 18:16 “BUT IF HE WILL NOT HEAR *thee, then*, TAKE WITH THEE ONE OR TWO MORE, THAT IN THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD MAY BE ESTABLISHED.”

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Then confirmed by the example given by the Apostle Paul;

II Corinthians 13:1 "THIS *is* THE THIRD *time* I AM COMING TO YOU. IN THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES SHALL EVERY WORD BE ESTABLISHED."

v.18 "I AM ONE THAT BEAR WITNESS OF MYSELF, AND THE FATHER THAT SENT ME BEARETH WITNESS OF ME."

As we had studied in chapter 5, Jesus has three witnesses to testify of his origin and His deity; Himself, God and his miracles. Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin that was trying to trap him had made this observation:

John 3:2 "THE SAME CAME TO JESUS BY NIGHT, AND SAID UNTO HIM, RABBI, WE KNOW THAT THOU ART A MAN COME FROM GOD: FOR NO MAN CAN DO THESE MIRACLES THAT THOU DOEST, EXCEPT GOD BE WITH HIM."

v.19 "THEN SAID THEY UNTO HIM, WHERE IS THY FATHER? JESUS ANSWERED, YE NEITHER KNOW ME, NOR MY FATHER: IF YE HAD KNOWN ME, YE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN MY FATHER ALSO."

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae:

Colossians 2:9 "FOR IN HIM DWELLETH ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY"

This is also frequently true in the physical world. Few people who knew my father or my mother either would fail to recognize me as their son. So since Jesus was a manifestation, or representation of the Godhead, of God as the Son of God, and those who professed to be children of God could not recognize him, then they must not know God. They did not believe him, so they asked, "WHERE IS THY FATHER?", they just as well have asked "who is thy father?" because if they had known who Jesus father was, they would have known where he was.

v.20 "THESE WORDS SPAKE JESUS IN THE TREASURY, AS HE TAUGHT IN THE TEMPLE: AND NO MAN LAID HANDS ON HIM; FOR HIS OUR WAS NOT YET COME."

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Again we see that the time for God's plan for man's redemption to be brought to completion still had not arrived. Just as we saw before:

John 7:8 "GO YE UP UNTO THIS FEAST: I GO NOT UP YET UNTO THIS FEAST; FOR MY TIME IS NOT YET FULL COME."

The treasury was one of the apartments, or departments of the temple and was located next to the court of the women, one of the most public parts of the temple. The Sanhedrin sat in the hall Gazith that was located between the court of the women and the inner court. So Jesus was basically teaching on the door step of those who sought to destroy him.

Another observation from this verse: one of the reasons that his "TIME IS NOT YET COME" is that just as the Passover lamb was killed only at the time of the Passover, the ultimate Passover Lamb would not be killed until about six months later at the time of the next Passover feast.

v.21 "THEN SAID JESUS AGAIN UNTO THEM, I GO MY WAY, AND YE SHALL SEEK ME, AND SHALL DIE IN YOUR SINS: WHITHER I GO, YE CANNOT FOLLOW."

Jesus has told them this before:

John 7:34 "YE SHALL SEEK ME, AND SHALL NOT FIND *me*; AND WHERE I AM *thither* YE CANNOT COME."

A day would come when they would seek the Messiah, when they would realize that this man Jesus was the Christ promised but it would be too late. That day would either come at the judgment day or at sometime before but too late for them to repent of their sin and obey God's other commandments. They would die in their sins and consequently never be able to do where Jesus went.

v.22 "THEN SAITH THE JEWS, WILL HE KILL HIMSELF? BECAUSE HE SAITH, WHITHER I GO, YE CANNOT COME."

Now his enemies are starting to speculate. Brother Lipscomb in his commentary suggests that these Jews, while they did not understand His purpose, were not as dense as this verse would indicate. In their thinking anyone who committed suicide went to the deepest regions of Gehenna. As children of God and especially as Pharisees they could never comprehend going anywhere after death other than heaven itself.

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v.23 “AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, YE ARE FROM BENEATH; I AM FROM ABOVE: YE ARE OF THIS WORLD; I AM NOT OF THIS WORLD.”

John the Immerser in his teaching had declared that Jesus was from above:

John 3:31 “HE THAT COMETH FROM ABOVE IS ABOVE ALL: HE THAT IS OF THE EARTH IS EARTHLY AND SPEAKETH OF THE EARTH: HE THAT COMETH FROM HEAVEN IS ABOVE ALL.”

So when these Jews speculated that Jesus was going to kill himself, he tells them in response that they are they ones who are “FROM BENEATH” or from that portion of the afterworld delegated to sinners and of this world. He was not of this world and would return above from whence he had come.

v.24 “I SAID THEREFORE UNTO YOU, THAT YE SHALL DIE IN YOUR SINS: FOR IF YE BELIEVE NOT THAT I AM *he*, YE SHALL DIE IN YOUR SINS.”

They were rejecting Him, they were earthly in mind and nature, and because they did not believe they would die in their sins. If you are using a good study Bible you will note that the word “he” that follows his declaration of being the “I AM”, is probably italicized. This indicates that it was added to the original text by the translators. This does not clarify or improve the original text because “I AM” was the name that God gave himself in his appearance to Moses:

Exodus 3:14 “AND GOD SAID UNTO MOSES, **I AM THAT I AM**: AND HE SAID, THUS SHALT THOU SAY UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, **I AM** HATH SENT ME UNTO YOU.”

Jesus is plainly declaring to all who knew the scriptures that He is the “I AM” that he is God.

v.25 “THEN SAID THEY UNTO HIM, WHO ART THOU? AND JESUS SAITH UNTO THEM, EVEN *the same* THAT I SAID UNTO YOU FROM THE BEGINNING.”

Jesus has touched a nerve. He has declared that they will die in their sins, that he would return above and that they would not be able to go where he was and that he is the “I AM.”

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v.26 "I HAVE MANY THINGS TO SAY AND TO JUDGE OF YOU: BUT HE THAT SENT ME IS TRUE; AND I SPEAK TO THE WORLD THOSE THINGS WHICH I HAVE HEARD OF HIM."

Jesus was sent to reveal the mind and purpose of God to the world. Again in the testimony of John the Immerser we find:

John 3:33 "HE THAT HATH RECEIVED HIS TESTIMONY HATH SET TO HIS SEAL THAT GOD IS TRUE."

In his teaching to reinforce the faith of his apostles just before his death he reassures them:

John 15:15 "HENCEFORTH I CALL YOU NOT SERVANTS; FOR THE SERVANT KNOWETH NOT WHAT HIS LORD DOETH; BUT I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS; FOR ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE HEARD OF MY FATHER I HAVE MADE KNOWN UNTO YOU."

But at this time His hearers are those who did not believe.

v.27 "THEY UNDERSTOOD NOT THAT HE SPAKE TO THEM OF THE FATHER."

Their minds were so entrenched in earthly things that they never understood that he spoke of God as His father.

v.28 "THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THEM, WHEN YE HAVE LIFTED UP THE SON OF MAN, THEN SHALL YE KNOW THAT I AM *he*, AND *that* I DO NOTHING OF MYSELF; BUT AS MY FATHER HATH TAUGHT ME, I SPEAK THESE THINGS."

Jesus had taught:

"AND AS MOSES LIFTED UP THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS, EVEN SO MUST THE SON OF MAN BE LIFTED UP." **John 3:14**

When that event occurred then, or shortly thereafter, as we see on the day of Pentecost, they would realize who he is. This along with his resurrection was one of the undeniable signs of his deity was the fact that he was raised from the dead as Paul testifies:

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Romans 1:4 “AND DECLARED *to be* THE SON OF GOD WITH POWER, ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT OF HOLINESS, BY THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD.”

v.29 “AND HE THAT SENT ME IS WITH ME: THE FATHER HATH NOT LEFT ME ALONE; FOR I DO ALWAYS THOSE THINGS THAT PLEASE HIM.”

The reason that God was with Jesus at all times and in all circumstances except at the moment that he took on the sins of all mankind was that he did the will of God. As he had said at Jacob’s well:

John 4:34 “JESUS SAITH UNTO THEM, MY MEAT IS TO DO THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME, AND TO FINISH HIS WORK.”

v.30 “AS HE SPAKE THESE WORDS, MANY BELIEVED ON HIM.”

The faith of those that believed was produced by his teaching and the works that he had done both in Judea and in Galilee as we see also in **John 10:42** and **John 11:45**.

v.31 “THEN SAID JESUS TO THOSE JEWS WHICH BELIEVED ON HIM, IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD *then* ARE YE MY DISCIPLES INDEED.”

When we obey the commandments of God required to become his children then as Luke recorded in **Acts 2:47** we are added to the church, the body of the saved. But that is not all that is required. We must “CONTINUE” to live by his Word, or as Jesus said “CONTINUE IN MY WORD”. Contrary to what some denominations teach and many of my brethren live we can “FALL” and lose the benefit of the grace of God.

Galatians 5:4 “CHRIST IS BECOME OF NO EFFECT UNTO YOU, WHOSOEVER OF YOU ARE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW; YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE.”

v.32 “AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE.”

When we continue in the Word of Christ, then we will know the truth and this truth will make us free. Again “CONTINUE” or live in accordance with all of that which has been recorded through inspiration for that purpose. Then we will be free, free from what? The Apostle Paul tells us:

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Romans 8:2 “FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS HATH MADE ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.”

The law of sin and death is quite simple to understand. When we sin (transgress God’s law, **1 John 3:4**) we die spiritually, we separate ourselves from God. Through the “LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE” and our obedience to that law we enjoy the benefits of the grace of God:

Romans 6:14 “FOR SIN SHALL NOT HAVE DOMINION OVER YOU: FOR YE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW, BUT UNDER GRACE.”

“BUT NOW BEING MADE FREE FROM SIN, AND BECOME SERVANTS TO GOD, YE HAVE YOUR FRUIT UNTO HOLINESS, AND THE END EVERLASTING LIFE.” **Romans 6:22**

Read **John 8:33-59** – Abraham’s Children?

v.33 “THEY ANSWERED HIM, WE BE ABRAHAM’S SEED, AND WERE NEVER IN BONDAGE TO ANY MAN: HOW SAYEST THOU, YE SHALL BE MADE FREE?”

The scribes and Pharisees who opposed Jesus and refused to believe his teaching put great stock in the fact that they were descendants of Abraham. Being descendants of Abraham they thought themselves to have a higher relationship with God than anyone else. They declared that they were free already and did not need to be set free. Neither did they believe John the Immerser because he had already told them in his preaching:

“...THINK NOT TO SAY WITHIN YOURSELVES, WE HAVE ABRAHAM TO *our* FATHER: FOR I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT GOD IS ABLE OF THESE STONES TO RAISE UP CHILDREN UNTO ABRAHAM.” **Matthew 3:9**

But they were not free, just as no man is free who has not been set free by the truth of God’s word. Observe: can we not fall into the same trap, we are God’s children; we have been set free, and many of my brethren live as though they can’t fall, but we can.

v.34 “JESUS ANSWERED THEM, VERILY, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU; WHOSOEVER COMMITTETH SIN IS THE SERVANT (bondservant) OF SIN.”

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This is the cruelest form of slavery known to man. Those that are slaves of sin are slaves of Satan and frequently suffer physically in addition to suffering spiritual death. But we have a choice. We choose to whom we will yield ourselves. Paul writes:

Romans 6:16 “KNOW YE NOT, THAT TO WHOM YE YIELD YOURSELVES SERVANTS TO OBEY, HIS SERVANTS YE ARE TO WHOM YE OBEY; WHETHER OF SIN UNTO DEATH, OR OF OBEDIENCE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS?”

And he goes on thanking God (**v.17**) that the people in the church at Rome had obeyed the doctrine given to them and had been made free from sin (**v.18**).

v.35 “AND THE SERVANT ABIDETH NOT IN THE HOUSE FOREVER: *but* THE SON ABIDETH EVER.”

When we yield ourselves to obey God unto righteousness, we are not longer servants but through his grace have become children of God. As Paul writes:

Romans 8:16-17 “THE SPIRIT ITSELF BEARETH WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT, THAT WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD: AND IF CHILDREN, THEN HEIRS; HEIRS OF GOD, AND JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST; IF SO BE THAT WE SUFFER WITH *him*, THAT WE MAY BE ALSO GLORIFIED TOGETHER.”

The servant or slave has no inheritance rights in the family or house in which he serves, but as children of God we do have an inheritance through which we will abide with the Son “EVER” or forever as children of God.

v.36 “IF THE SON THEREFORE SHALL MAKE YOU FREE, YE SHALL BE FREE INDEED.”

While slavery to Satan is indeed the cruelest all the freedom enjoyed as children of God is the most joyous and freest of freedoms. Paul encourages those in Galatia to never let that liberty go, hang on to it as though our very lives depend on it. Our spiritual life does!

Galatians 5:1 “STAND FAST THEREFORE IN THE LIBERTY WHEREWITH CHRIST HATH MADE US FREE, AND BE NOT ENTANGLED AGAIN WITH THE YOKE OF BONDAGE.”

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And though Paul was writing about the “YOKE OF BONDAGE” to the old Law the application to the “YOKE OF BONDAGE” to sin is equally valid.

v.37 “I KNOW YE ARE ABRAHAM’S SEED BUT YE SEEK TO KILL ME, BECAUSE MY WORD HATH NO PLACE IN YOU.”

Jesus knew that they were Abraham’s seed or descendants of Abraham just as well as they did. But did not have the heart of mind of Abraham; they did not accept his word, his teaching, and sought to kill him just as we saw in the previous chapter:

John 7:19 “DID NOT MOSES GIVE YOU THE LAW AND **yet** NONE OF YOU KEEPETH THE LAW? WHY GO YE ABOUT TO KILL ME?”

v.38 “I SPEAK THAT WHICH I HAVE SEEN WITH MY FATHER: AND YE DO THAT WHICH YE HAVE SEEN WITH YOUR FATHER.”

Jesus is drawing a very sharp contrast between his accusers and himself. He is doing the will of His Father just as he had told them before:

John 5:19 “THEN ANSWERED JESUS AND SAID UNTO THEM, VERILY, VERILY IS SAY UNTO YOU, THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIMSELF, BUT WHAT HE SEETH THE FATHER DO: FOR WHAT THINGS SOEVER HE DOETH, THESE ALSO DOETH THE SON LIKEWISE.”

And since they sought to kill him, commit murder He is telling them that they are the sons of Satan, because Satan was a murderer from the beginning as we shall see in **v.44**.

v.39 “THEY ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HIM, ABRAHAM IS OUR FATHER. JESUS SAITH UNTO THEM, IF YE WERE ABRAHAM’S CHILDREN, YE WOULD DO THE WORKS OF ABRAHAM.”

The scribes and Pharisees refused to own up to being the children of anyone but Abraham. However, their actions were not consistent with their claims. Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount:

Matthew 7:15-16 “BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS, WHICH COME TO YOU IN SHEEP’S CLOTHING, BUT INWARDLY THEY ARE RAVENING WOLVES. YE SHALL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS. DO MEN GATHER GRAPES OF THORNS, OR FIGS OF THISTLES?”

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These men were not what they claimed to be. They claimed to be the children of Abraham but in their actions they refuted everything that Abraham was in his lifetime. Paul writes to the Roman church that “FOR HE IS NOT A JEW, WHICH IS ONE OUTWARDLY...BUT HE IS A JEW, WHICH IS ONE INWARDLY...”

Galatians 2:28-29. These men may have had their names on a register that said that they were Jews, descendants of Judah and subsequently descendants of Abraham. But their actions were not those that Abraham would have done had he been in their place.

v.40 “BUT NOW YE SEEK TO KILL ME, A MAN THAT HATH TOLD YOU THE TRUTH, WHICH I HAVE HEARD OF GOD: THIS DID NOT ABRAHAM.”

Abraham, a pillar of faith, renowned in the chapter on faith, **Hebrews 11** would have accepted Jesus and the word of God with open arms, an open heart and hands willing to do the work of the Lord. Instead these people are plotting to kill the Messiah, promised and sent by God. This in spite of the fact that Jesus was the Son of God, sent to preach, teach a body of doctrine call the Gospel that would through the sacrifice of his life’s blood provide redemption from the bondage of sin. This in spite of the fact that his coming had been prophesied for 100’s of years and heralded by the man that God, John the Immerser, had sent for that purpose.

v.41 “YE DO THE DEEDS OF YOUR FATHER. THEN SAID THEY TO HIM, WE BE NOT BORN OF FORNICATION; WE HAVE ONE FATHER, *even* GOD.”

Knowing the condition of their hearts, their plans to destroy him, Jesus once again charges them with being the children of Satan. His judgment was based upon their works or deeds. They knew the prophets. Isaiah wrote:

Isaiah 63:16 “DOUBTLESS THOU *art* OUR FATHER, THOUGH ABRAHAM BE IGNORANT OF US, AND ISRAEL ACKNOWLEDGES US NOT: THOU, O LORD, *art* OUR FATHER, OUR REDEEMER; THEY NAME *is* FROM EVERLASTING.”

And again:

Isaiah 64:8 “BUT NOW, O LORD, THOU *art* OUR FATHER, WE *are* THE CLAY, AND THOU OUR POTTER; AND WE ALL *are* THE WORK OF THY HAND.”

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But they did not do the will of God, they refused to accept His Son and rejected him even as they would a Gentile. Consequently Jesus comes to the obvious conclusion, God is not their father, their father is the evil one.

v.42 “JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, IF GOD WERE YOUR FATHER, YE WOULD LOVE ME: FOR I PROCEEDED FORTH AND CAME FROM GOD; NEITHER CAME I MYSELF, BUT HE SENT ME.”

He continues his argument; if God was indeed their father they would love their Father’s son rather than seeking to kill him. John recorded in his first epistle:

I John 5:1 “WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST IS BORN OF GOD: AND EVERY ONE THAT LOVETH HIM THAT BEGAT LOVETH HIM ALSO THAT IS BEGOTTEN OF HIM.”

Jesus was sent by his Father; had come from the Father and would return to his rightful place at the right hand of his Father. His teaching of that day, and the record that we have of it today, was given to him by His Father and to the men who recorded it by the “BREATH” of God, it is inspired. Jesus did the will of his father, even as we saw in an earlier chapter.

John 5:19 “THEN ANSWERED JESUS AND SAID UNTO THEM, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIMSELF, BUT WHAT HE SEETH THE FATHER DO: FOR WHAT THINGS SOEVER HE DOETH, THESE ALSO DOETH THE SON LIKEWISE.”

v.43 “WHY DO YE NOT UNDERSTAND MY SPEECH? *Even* BECAUSE YE CANNOT HEAR MY WORD.”

Jesus asked why can’t you understand what I’m telling you? Why indeed, because they were carnally minded, sensual in nature and worldly minded. They claimed to be children of God, children of faithful Abraham but in reality they were far from being either. They were looking for a political solution to their bondage to Rome, not a spiritual solution to their bondage to sin.

v.44 “YE ARE OF *your* FATHER THE DEVIL, AND THE LUSTS OF YOUR FATHER YE WILL DO. HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, AND ABODE NOT IN THE TRUTH, BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM. WHEN HE SPEAKETH A LIE, HE SPEAKETH OF HIS OWN: FOR HE IS A LIAR, AND THE FATHER OF IT.”

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John, in his first epistle, explains the meaning of His words this way:

I John 3:8 "HE THAT COMMITETH SIN IS OF THE DEVIL; FOR THE DEVIL SINNETH FROM THE BEGINNING. FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SON OF GOD WAS MANIFESTED, THAT HE MIGHT DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL."

These people are plotting, planning and working to kill Jesus, the Son of God, they were doing the work of the devil. For this reason he charges them with being sons of Satan, children of the devil, not the children of God and not the children of Abraham as they claimed.

v.45 "AND BECAUSE I TELL *you* THE TRUTH, YE BELIEVE ME NOT."

Because they were children of the father of lies, they didn't recognize the truth when it was put before them. They refused to believe it.

v.46 "WHICH OF YOU CONVINCETH ME OF SIN? AND IF I SAY THE TRUTH, WHY DO YE NOT BELIEVE ME.?"

He challenges them, who can convict me of sin? Who can testify that the Son of God has transgressed God's law in any way? Only one who has defied God is worthy of death. As the writer of the book of Hebrews assures us:

Hebrews 4:15 "FOR WE HAVE NOT A HIGH PRIEST WHICH CANNOT BE TOUCHED WITH THE FEELING OF OUR INFIRMITIES; BUT WAS IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED LIKE AS *we are, yet* WITHOUT SIN."

But they do not believe him. He tells them why.

v.47 "HE THAT IS OF GOD HEARETH GOD'S WORDS: YE THEREFORE HEAR *them* NOT, BECAUSE HE ARE NOT OF GOD."

This sounds like a very logical conclusion doesn't it. If we do not hear the words of God, and we are not talking about just hearing their sounds and comprehending the words in our language, but "hearing" with our faith and obedience confirming that we hear and understand we are not of God. Jesus illustrates that fact a little later in our study of this book:

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John 10:27-28 “MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE, AND I KNOW THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW ME: AND I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE; AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH, NEITHER SHALL ANY *man* PLUCK THEM OUT OF MY HAND.”

v.48 “THEN ANSWERED THE JEWS, AND SAID UNTO HIM, SAY WE NOT WELL THAT THOU ART A SAMARITAN AND HAST A DEVIL.”

As we have studied before, the Jews viewed the Samaritans as being worse than Gentiles because they claimed a common heritage with the Jews. So now these Jews call Jesus the worst name that they could think of to call anyone living in their society, a Samaritan. This isn't the only time or place that they make this kind of accusation.

John 10:20 “AND MANY OF THEM SAID, HE HATH A DEVIL, AND IS MAD; WHY HEAR YE HIM?”

v.49 “JESUS ANSWERED, I HAVE NOT A DEVIL; BUT I HONOUR MY FATHER, AND YE DO DISHONOUR ME.”

Just as Jesus had taught throughout this chapter and those previous, he honored his father by his obedience to Him, carrying out the mission that He had been given. He did not have a devil, he couldn't have a devil because he taught and worked miracles by the power of God.

v.50 “AND I SEEK NOT MINE OWN GLORY: THERE IS ONE THAT SEEKETH AND JUDGETH.”

Jesus did not seek his own glory. He suborned himself completely to the will of God, even to the extent of going to the cross and dying to fulfill God's purpose to provide a sacrificial lamb for the sins of you and I. But God does seek to be glorified by man in his worship and service and will judge our performance at the proper time. Just as Paul preached in Athens:

Acts 17:31 “BECAUSE HE HATH APPOINTED A DAY, IN THE WHICH HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS BY *that* MAN WHOM HE HATH ORDAINED; *whereof* HE HATH GIVEN ASSURANCE UNTO ALL *men*, IN THAT HE RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD.”

v.51 “VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, IF A MAN KEEP MY SAYING, HE SHALL NEVER SEE DEATH.”

John Chapter Eight

Jesus tells them basically the same things that he taught in the synagogues of Capernaum:

John 5:24 “VERILY, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, HE THAT HEARETH MY WORD, AND BELIEVETH ON HIM THAT SENT ME, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, AND SHALL NOT COME INTO COMDEMNATION; BUT IS PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE.”

v.52 “THEN SAID THE JEWS UNTO HIM, NOW WE KNOW THAT THOU HAST A DEVIL. ABRAHAM IS DEAD, AND THE PROPHETS; AND THOU SAYEST, IF A MAN KEEP MY SAYING, HE SHALL NEVER TASTE OF DEATH.”

Again their minds are tuned to the literal and physical not the figurative and spiritual and they refuse to consider his meaning. Abraham is dead, the prophets are dead, they were people of God, yet they died.

Zechariah 1:5 “YOUR FATHERS, WHERE *are* THEY? AND THE PROPHETS, DO THEY LIVE FOREVER?”

Jesus had said that those who would keep his sayings, sayings given unto him by the father would never die. So to justify their conscience they accuse Jesus of being demon possessed, just as they had accused him of working miracles by the power of Beelzebub (**Matthew 12:23-25**).

v.53 “ART THOU GREATER THAN OUR FATHER ABRAHAM, WHICH IS DEAD? AND THE PROPHETS ARE DEAD: WHOM MAKEST THOU THYSELF?”

They still refuse to accept what Jesus has plainly told them, that he is the Son of God. So they ridicule him, asking “WHOM MAKEST THOU THYSELF?” Who do you claim to be? How can you be greater than Abraham or the prophets?

v.54 “JESUS ANSWERED, IF I HONOUR MYSELF, MY HONOUR IS NOTHING: IT IS MY FATHER THAT HONOURETH ME; OF WHOM HE SAY, THAT HE IS YOUR GOD:”

Jesus had already told them in a previous discussion that no man can testify of himself (**John 5:31, 41**). He has also told them in this discussion that He has been sent by The Father, referring to God:

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John 8:29 "AND HE THAT SENT ME IS WITH ME: THE FATHER HATH NOT LEFT ME ALONE; FOR I DO ALWAYS THOSE THINGS THAT PLEASE HIM."

So it is God the Father, the God that they claim to serve that honors him as Peter and John testify in the temple at the healing of the lame man:

Acts 3:13 "THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND OF ISAAC AND OF JACOB, THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS, HATH GLORIFIED HIS SON JESUS; WHOM HE DELIVERED UP, AND DENIED HIM IN THE PRESENCE OF PILATE, WHEN HE WAS DETERMINED TO LET *him* GO."

v.55 "YET YE HAVE NOT KNOWN HIM; BUT I KNOW HIM: AND IF I SHOULD SAY, I KNOW HIM NOT, I SHALL BE A LIAR LIKE UNTO YOU: BUT I KNOW HIM, AND KEEP HIS SAYING."

Jesus tells them that they do not know God and lie when they claim that they do. Once again he is judging them by their fruit, their attitudes and their conduct. He has told them plainly, most recently here in Jerusalem teaching at this feast.

John 7:28-29 "THEN CRIED JESUS IN THE TEMPLE AS HE TAUGHT, SAYING, YE BOTH KNOW ME, AND YE KNOW WHENCE I AM: AND I AM NOT COME OF MYSELF, BUT HE THAT SENT ME IS TRUE, WHOM YE KNOW NOT. BUT I KNOW HIM: FOR I AM FROM HIM, AND HE HATH SENT ME."

v.56 "YOUR FATHER ABRAHAM REJOICED TO SEE MY DAY: AND HE SAW *it*, AND WAS GLAD."

How did Abraham see the "day of the Lord", the day that Jesus would come to the earth to redeem mankind? Through the promises that God made to him and his faith in God that God would keep his promises:

Hebrews 11:13 "THESE ALL DIED IN FAITH, NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE PROMSES, BUT HAVING SEEN THEM AFAR OFF, AND WERE PERSUADED OF *them*, AND EMBRACED *them*, AND CONFESSED THAT THEY WERE STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS ON THE EARTH."

v.57 "THEN SAID THE JEWS UNTO HIM, THOU ART NOT YET FIFTY YEARS OLD, AND HAST THOU SEEN ABRAHAM?"

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They don't believe him. Abraham has been dead for over 2,000 years and Jesus is not yet 50 years old. How could he have seen Abraham? It is almost as if they were mocking him. Jesus tells them.

v.58 "JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM."

Jesus repeats the fact that he is the "I AM", the designation or name that God gave to himself at the burning bush that we considered at verse 24 of this same discussion. Jesus existed long before Abraham just as the inspired scripture tells us at the very beginning of John's gospel record:

John 1:1 "IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD." **v.14** "AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, AND DWELT AMONG US, (AND WE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER,) FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH."

And as Jesus identifies himself to John at the beginning of the book of Revelation as well:

Revelation 1:8 "I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE ENDING, SAITH THE LORD, WHICH IS, AND WHICH WAS, AND WHICH IS TO COME, THE ALMIGHTY."

v.59 "THEN TOOK THEY UP STONES TO CAST AT HIM: BUT JESUS HID HIMSELF, AND WENT OUT OF THE TEMPLE, GOING THROUGH THE MIDST OF THEM, AND SO PASSED BY."

Because they did not believe him they considered him a blasphemer. Consequently they take up stones to stone him to death. This was the penalty for blasphemy under the Mosaic Covenant:

Leviticus 24:16 "AND HE THAT BLASPHEMETH THE NAME OF THE **LORD**, HE SHALL SURELY BE PUT TO DEATH, *and* ALL THE CONGREGATION SHALL CERTAINLY STONE HIM: AS WELL THE STRANGER, AS HE THAT IS BORN IN THE LAND, WHEN HE BLASPHEMETH THE NAME *of the Lord*, SHALL BE PUT TO DEATH."

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But the time for Jesus' sacrifice has not yet come. In God's plan his death is to come while hanging on a tree as the Apostle Paul records, quoting part of **Deuteronomy 21:23** in:

Galatians 3:13 "CHRIST HATH REDEEMED US FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW, BEING MADE A CURSE FOR US: FOR IT IS WRITTEN, CURSED *is* EVERY ONE THAT HANGETH ON A TREE:"