

You Are Of Your Father

Introduction

I. Opening Illustration

- A. The passing on or physical features, traits, looks, and demeanors
 1. The baby looks like mom or dad
 2. Ellie may look like me, but there are faces she makes and eye rolls that she does that all I see is her mom
 3. When someone hears you talking they say, "If I didn't see you I would have thought I just heard ____."
 4. Have you ever heard, "You remind me of someone I know. Do you know ___?"
 5. How often is it that the person that we remind others of is our mothers or fathers?

II. Background

A. John 7 - The Feast of Booths

1. There is a constant division among the Jews over Jesus
 - a) Is he leading men astray or is he leading people to God?
 - b) The religious leaders adamantly deny Jesus but many of the other Jews began to believe
 - c) From the context of John 7:53-8:11 it very well may be that John 8 is the day after the Feast of Booths has concluded and Jesus goes back into Jerusalem to the temple
 - d) In John 8 Jesus narrows his focus and begins to peel away one layer at a time as he addresses his Jewish brothers and their disbelief in him

III. Context of Today's Lesson

- A. In John 8, we are going to see just how much like our parents that all men are
 - a) John 8:41a - [41] You are doing the works your father did."
 - b) John 8:44a - [44] You are of your father *the devil*, and your will is to do your father's desires.
- B. We are all of one father, we will all do the works of our father, and our very wills will be to satisfy the desires of our Father

IV. Purpose of Today's Lesson

- A. The purpose of today's lesson is to examine John 8 and see who the father of these Jews was and to ask ourselves, "Who is my Father?" For "you are of your father," whoever that may be!

Lesson

I. Where is Your Father, Jesus?

- A. The discussion of who Jesus is, where he comes from, and where he thinks he gets his authority is broached again.
 - a) John 8:12-19 - [12] Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." [13] So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." [14] Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. [15] You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. [16] Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. [17] In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. [18] **I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.** [19] **They said to him therefore, "Where is**

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your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” (ESV)

B. Jesus peels away the first layer of disbelief by discussing the testimony of he and his father

C. *They ask, “Where is your Father?” Jesus replies, “You don’t know my Father.”*

II. Who Are You, Jesus?

A. Because these people don’t know the father look at their fate

- a) John 8:21–30 - **[21] So he said to them again, “I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.” [22] So the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?” [23] He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. [24] I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.” [25] So they said to him, “Who are you?” Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. [26] I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.” [27] They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. [28] So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. [29] And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” [30] As he was saying these things, many believed in him. (ESV)**

B. Jesus peels away the second layer of disbelief by telling them that he is not from this world and has been sent from the father

C. *They ask, “Who are you?” Jesus replies, “I am who I have been saying that I am from the beginning.”*

III. How would you set us free, Jesus?

A. Many are beginning to open their hearts and minds to receive the words of Jesus but don’t like everything that they hear

- a) John 8:31–38 - **[31] So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32] and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” [33] They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?” [34] Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. [35] The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. [36] So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. [37] I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. [38] I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” (ESV)**

B. Jesus peels away the third layer of disbelief by telling those that had begun to believe in him that they are going to have to be abide in his word if they long to be truly set free

C. *They ask, “How would you set us free?” Jesus replies, “I can set you free from your sins because right now, we don’t have the same Father.”*

IV. We know who our father is, Jesus!

A. When the ones that had begun to believe hear what Jesus has to say they get very defensive

- a) John 8:39–47 - **[39] 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, [40] but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. [41] You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not**

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born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” [42] 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. [43] Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. [44] You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. [45] But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. [46] Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? [47] Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.” (ESV)

- B. Jesus peels away the fourth layer of disbelief by telling them that if they want to call God their father, they were going to have to start embracing all that Jesus had to say
 - C. *They say, “We know who our father is!” Jesus replies, “You have no clue who your father is. There is no denying your parentage and yours is the Devil”*
- V. Are you greater than our father Abraham, Jesus?
- A. These people that were so close to believing now call Jesus demented
 - a) John 8:48–59 - [48] The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” [49] Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. [50] Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. **[51] Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” [52] The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ [53] Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” [54] Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ [55] But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. [56] **Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” [57] So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” [58] Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” [59] So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. (ESV)****
 - B. Jesus peels away the fifth layer of disbelief by telling them that even Abraham himself longed to see and hear what these people were getting to partake of first hand
 - C. They ask, “Are you greater than our Father Abraham?” Jesus replies, “Before Abraham was, I AM!”

Conclusion

- I. How will you respond?
 1. After peeling away all of the questions and issues that these people had with Jesus...
 2. After showing himself clearly as being from God...
 3. These people picked up stones to throw at him
- II. You are of your Father
 1. So I ask, who is your father?
 2. Our Father is the one in whom we serve, the one we obey, the one we submit to, the one we seek to satisfy his every desire.
 3. If you are not serving, obeying, submitting and desiring the things of God, is he your Father?