

The Gospel According to John

“Seeing Jesus as He Is”

John 8:48-59



John 8:48-53

The Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death.”

The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon.

Abraham died, and the prophets also; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.’

Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?”

John 8:54-56

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’;
and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him;
and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you,
but I do know Him and keep His word.
Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day,
and he saw it and was glad.”

John 8:57-59

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 born, I am.”

Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.”

Main Idea

A desire for other's approval and self-reliant pride will prevent you from seeing Jesus as He is; but if you humble yourself and entrust yourself to Him, He will give you freedom and life.

Seeing Jesus as He Is

What prevented the Jews
from seeing Jesus as He is?



What blinded the Jews?

Their desire for approval.

John 12:42-43

Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him,
but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him,
for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;
for they loved the approval of men
rather than the approval of God.

John 12:42-43

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but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him,
for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;

for **they loved the approval of men
rather than the approval of God.**

Resulting blindness...

John 8:48-50

The Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon;
but I honor My Father, and **you dishonor Me.**

But I do not seek My glory...”

Jesus was not like them; He wasn't seeking
to receive glory from others!

John 8:54-55

Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing;
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The Jews sought to receive praise and recognition from the people and from one another, but Jesus refused to play their game, and they hated Him for it.

The result?

John 5:44

“How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?”

They can't believe because they can't see!

John 5:44

“How can you believe, when you receive glory
from one another and you do not seek the glory
that is from the one and only God?”

How much are you influenced by a desire for approval or acceptance or at least by a desire to avoid being seen as “one of those”?

A desire to have approval or to avoid ridicule or criticism or offense, will blind you to the real Jesus.

What blinded the Jews?

Their desire for approval.

Their self-reliant pride.

What were they relying on?

John 8:39

They answered and said to Him, **“Abraham is our father.”**

Luke 3:8

“Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance,
and do not begin to say to yourselves,
‘We have Abraham for our father,’

They were children of Abraham,
set apart as God's special people;
what more could they need?

John 8:54-55

You say, 'He is our God';

...and you have **not** come to know Him...

They knew a lot *about* God and relied upon their great learning and standing, but they didn't really know God.

John 8:54-55

You say, 'He is our God';

...and you have **not** come to know Him...

They knew a lot *about* God and relied upon their great learning and standing, but they didn't really know God.

Because they did not know God,
they could not recognize God's Son.

They were blind because they didn't see their need: they had Abraham, they had Moses, they had the temple, they had learning, they could say "He is our God."

Jesus offended them by pointing out their need of salvation.

What are you relying on?

Are you willing, not just to admit that you have need, but that you have *nothing*?

What are you relying on?

Are you willing, not just to admit that
you have need, but that you have nothing?

**You will not see Christ
as He really is if you will not see
yourself as you really are.**

Seeing Jesus as He Is

What prevented the Jews from seeing Jesus as He is?

Who is the Jesus they were
unable to see?



Who is this Jesus?

He is the Son of God.

John 8:49

I honor **My Father**.

John 8:54

It is **My Father** who glorifies Me.

Jesus was not simply claiming to be *a* son of Abraham; He was claiming to be *the* Son of God.

Who is this Jesus?

He is the Son of God.

He is the promised Redeemer.

Remember that this discussion is set in the context of the Feast of Booths, the celebration of their redemption, and that Abraham was a key topic.

God had promised Abram a son through whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed, but then God said to Abram...

Genesis 15:13

“Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years.”

Jesus had been showing this people that He is the true and better Moses, the Messiah, the promised Redeemer come to set them free!

Even Abraham, “their father,”
had seen and believed!

John 8:56

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day,
and he saw it and was glad.”

Who is this Jesus?

He is the Son of God.

He is the promised Redeemer.

He is the eternal *I Am*.

John 8:57-58

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 born, I am.”

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and have You seen Abraham?”

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you,

before Abraham *came to be*, I am.”

John 8:57-58

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 came to be, **I am.**”

There is no clearer declaration of Christ's deity than this claim to eternal existence.

What will you do with this claim?

Seeing Jesus as He Is

What prevented the Jews from seeing Jesus as He is?

Who is the Jesus they were unable to see?

What is the right response to Him?



What is the right response?

Humble yourself before Him.

The Jews refused to humble themselves before Jesus and to own their humiliation; so, they could not receive His consolation.

Isaiah 66:2

“But to this one I will look...

To him who is humble and contrite of spirit,
and who trembles at My word.”

Are you humbling yourself,
coming to Him in your humiliation,
ready to receive His consolation?

What is the right response to Him?

Humble yourself before Him.

Entrust yourself to Him.

John 8:51

“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word
he will never see death.”

John 8:51

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John 8:51

“Truly, truly, I say to you, **if anyone keeps My word**
he will never see death.”

What does it mean to keep Jesus' word?

Keeping Jesus' Word

Keeping Jesus' word is not simply a matter of obedience to its letter.

It is a matter *first* of taking hold of it as that which is life itself and then clinging to it for life.

Keeping Jesus' word is a matter of entrusting all of your life to Him.

Seeing Jesus as He Is

What prevented the Jews from seeing Jesus as He is?

Who is the Jesus they were unable to see?

What is the right response to Him?

What will He give to you?



What will He give to you?

Freedom from sin.

John 8:34 and 36

“Truly, truly, I say to you,
everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.”

“If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

What will He give to you?

Freedom from sin.

Life everlasting.

John 8:51

“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word
he will never see death.”

John 8:51

“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word

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John 8:51

“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word

he will never see death.”

The wages of sin is death,
but the words of Christ are life.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 6:63

“The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.”

Concluding Questions:

Have you owned your humiliation
at the feet of Jesus?

Have you entrusted your life to Him?

Are you willing to seek His approval at
the expense of all other's?