

Title: Many Came To Believe In Him

Text: John 8:21-30

The Gospel of John, chapter 8, please. Today we come to another exciting passage of scripture. Once, again Jesus is going to present himself to the Jewish leaders and people as God. It is a fantastic passage. So, let's read about (3D) the TRUE IDENTITY OF JESUS CHRIST *as Presented by Jesus, himself*

John chapter 8 beginning with Vs 21 (Read Vs 21-30)

PRAYER

Now, according to Vs 20 of this 8th chapter, Jesus is teaching in the Court of the Women which is located in the Temple Area. (3C) This is taking place during the FEAST OF TABERNACLES. (3D) And in this passage JESUS PRESENTS HIS REAL IDENTITY. And of course this caused hostility and rebellion on the part of the Jewish leadership. But, Praise God, as Vs 30 says, "many believed." And that is exciting. As you read through John you see the hostility of people towards him. But, on the other hand, you rejoice because many are believing in Him.

Now, as we consider (3D) HIS REAL IDENTITY, there are four things that I would like you to understand.

(1E) Number one, concerns the place He was going. Vs 21 to 23, speaks very clearly and deals with the heavenly origin of Jesus.

Jesus said to them in Vs 21 that "He was going away and the time would come when they would seek Him, but they would die in their sin. And where He went they could not come."

It reminds me much of what the Word of God teaches in many O.T. passages. Such as Jeriamiah 29:13, which says "And you will seek me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart."

And I believe Jesus had that verse in mind when he made this statement, here, in Vs 21

And here we can learn a tremendous principle. The reason why people die in their sin is because they refuse to seek Him with all of their heart. Jesus said, "You will seek me, you will wonder where I am. But, you will not find me. And you will die in your sin."

Notice, please, the little phrase in Vs 21 "die in your sin." The word "your" is not found in the Greek text. In the Greek text it simply says, "die in THE sin." Not "your sin". But, "the sin." It is talking about a particular sin. And I believe our Lord, because of what He said in Vs 24, is saying that THE SIN that causes people to die and not to seek Him, is the SIN OF UNBELIEF. THE SIN OF UNBELIEF. And unbelief, mainly, as to His person. WHO HE IS....You see, a lot of people believe in the existence of Jesus. They accept Him as either a prophet or a good teacher or a good moral man. But, they are not accepting His real identity. And dear friends, they will die in their sin of unbelief. The refusal to accept the claims of Scripture as to the person Of Jesus Christ.

Now, there are two things I would like you to know regarding the place He was going.

(1F) Number one, notice the response of the Jews. When Jesus said what He said in Vs 21 they responded thus: Vs 22..."will He kill himself?"

Now, why did they say that? They accused Him of this once before if you remember. Will He go and kill himself. Will He commit suicide?

Now I believe they were
~~Now, the reason why they were~~

saying this is because they were hoping that maybe he would commit suicide. Because they had been plotting all along to kill him. And thus, he would do what they had been planning. So, they were saying, "Will he kill himself from the standpoint of suicide and thus become a martyr." "And thus all the people would follow him. *But* if he really wants to do that. Well, just let him do it. Because we want him out of the way."

~~They were seeking to kill him. And they were~~ *So* ~~hoping~~ *to* ~~do~~ *Commit suicide*
it for them.

But they were a little bit distributed because he said "where I am going you cannot come." They thought that he just meant "after death." Obviously he would kill himself and they could go where he was. Because they couldn't imagine the possibility of seeking the Lord and not finding him. Do you get the point.?

You see, a lot of us think the same thing. We sort of argue the idea: "Well, at any time I can seek the Lord and find him."...

Oh, no... You see, the problem is our belief in our hearts. And if unbelief is there as to his real identity *of Jesus*, no matter how hard you seek, you will never find him. Until you seek Him with the heart of responsiveness, with belief, believing that the claims of the scripture are true.

You see, it is not what I think or I don't think about the Bible. It is whether I accept the concept that the Bible is truth. And then my problem is whether *or not* I believe the truth, or I am going to believe my own preconceived ideas.

It is true that Christianity begins with a great assumption ~~in the eyes of many~~. And ~~that is~~ that the Bible is in fact, as originally given, by the writers, who *were* controlled by the Holy Spirit, ~~it is~~ the very word of God. Every bit of it. From Genesis to Revelation. It is the Word of God.

And you see, our problem is believing that... Because I have no problem believing that Jesus is who he claims, if I accept this book to be the truth. Then I can accept anything that it says. The real issue is whether or not the Bible is the very Word of God...

That is very important. Because you see, Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Christianity is based upon the fact that we have confidence and trust in an actual written record that ~~claims~~ claims to be God's Word. My faith is not resting upon my feelings and my experiences. Because if it were, when I am high, I am O.K., but when I am down I am wasted. I am out of it.

It depends upon my trust in the written record. My faith is relying upon the facts as recorded in the Bible. And all the way down the line, you will find Jesus telling men that they must believe his words....Words that are written, finally. But words as they were spoken by Christ. You must believe the wordssssss....And if you do not there is no saving faith. And you will die in the sin of all sins, which is the sin of unbelief. That is, refusing to accept his Word that He is who he claims to be. And that is the foundation of the christian experience.

(2) The second thing that I want you to notice about the place to which he was going, ~~The first was the response they gave. But secondly, the reason for what they said, was clearly stated in vs 23 by christ. Here is the reason why they said what they said, clearly, to Jesus~~

(1) Vs 23, Jesus said, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world; I am not of this world."

Notice the contrast. "Below" versus "above"...In Colossians 3: ~~1~~² Paul tells us to set our minds on things above where Christ dwells at the right hand of the throne of God." *Heavenly minded - He is so heavenly minded that he is no earthly good.*

But, He is dealing ~~here~~^{here} with His heaven origin. He came from heaven. He is returning to heaven. He is going to ascend into heaven where He is now. And He is coming back in the future. And so, the reason they believe ^{had a hard time} ~~is because they~~ were "worldly" instead of "heavenly." They were seemingly viewing everything from the standpoint of earth, rather than heaven. *all of his claim*

And that is still done of people today

(2) And the second reason why they said what they said and believed what they believed was because they were of the world and he was not. Jesus was not of this world, but they were.

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And that is ^{a challenge} ~~an admission~~ for everyone of us as believers. I John 2:15-17 says "Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If any one loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever."

That is the reason they thought like they did. That is the reason you and I think incorrectly. Because we are of the world. And the Bible teaches us to set our minds on things that are ^{above} ~~above~~. We should seek Christ's world. Not this world. We should recognize that we are in this world, but we are not of it. And there is a very important difference. I am in it to do what I can for Christ, in winning others to ^{Jesus} ~~him~~, and in building up other believers, but I am not a part of the world system. And the more I try to be, the more I try to act like that which I am really not, the more frustrated I become as a christian. It is a tragic thing to watch a Christian who is not of this world, in this world, but not of this world, try to act as if he was. And he destroys his life and his happiness, as he tries to put one foot in Jesus Christ, while keeping the other foot in the world. You cannot do that. [You will be held accountable for the life you ~~live~~ live as a believer. You are either for him or against him, said Jesus. Where do you stand? You cannot agree to Christ, ^{you do} like to do apple pie, and America and motherhood...OH, NO...Jesus has a real identity taught in the Bible that He is asking you to believe, follow, and live. He is Lord and Master. He is Jehovah of the O.T., He is the God who made us. And he is asking you to believe those claims.

^{Again, I say} The reason people do not believe is because they have not accepted the Bible as the Word of God. Friends, you must believe that. Faith is the ~~substance~~ substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. We have not seen all that we would like to know about the invisible God. We have never even cast our eyes upon Jesus. ^{But} Thank God for a written record that can tell us about Jesus. And we can understand from that.

But, I have never looked with my eyes upon Jesus. I wish I had. I am going to one day. But, right now, my faith is resting in a written record. THE GREAT SIN OF BELIEF IS REFUSING TO BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD THAT IS NOW RECORDED IN THE SCRIPTURES.

(2E) Now, secondly, concerning this presentation of His identity, please notice the rebellion over the prerequisite of believing in Him.

The same thing is true today. When you tell people that Jesus is the only way to heaven. You must believe in Him in order to go to heaven. People rebel. They call that narrow minded.

In Vs 24 Jesus said, "I said therefore to you that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins."

Now, notice that the little word "HE" is in italics. What does that mean? It means that it is not in the original Greek text. It simply reads.. "unless you believe that I am." "you shall die in your sin."

Why is that important? Do you remember the story found in Ex. 3:14? Moses wanted to know the name of God before he went to Pharaoh on behalf of the children of Israel. He said to God, "What shall I tell ^{him} ~~them~~? What is your name? And God answered: "Tell ^{him} ~~them~~ that I ammm has sent you." "I am". The great name of Jehovah. I am that I am. The eternal ^{God} ~~one~~.

Dear friends, that was a very important phrase to the Jewish mind. It is the name of Jehovah. And Jesus said, "if you don't believe that I AM you will die in your sin."

You see, Jesus wasn't asking them to believe in his physical existence. OH..NO..that is not what He is saying. He is saying, "if you don't believe that I AM the I AM of Scripture, the eternal God, you will die in your sin. And dear friends, that is still true today. That is the issue.

The other day I was asked the question. Do you believe that it is necessary to believe that Jesus is God in order to be saved? ABSOLUTELY...There is no other way. If Jesus was not God, then He could not die for your sins and for my sins. It would be impossible.

The fact that makes Jesus your saviour and mine is the fact that he is God. If He is not God, then the Bible is not correct and you cannot trust it. Because the Bible says that Jesus is God. {One of the best examples is found over at the end of I John. Where John said, of Jesus, "This is the true God."

Speaking of his second coming, Paul wrote in Titus 2:13, "Looking for the ~~the~~ blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Who is going to appear on this earth again? Jesus is...What does Paul say his name is? OUR GREAT GOD AND SAVIOUR.

Paul wrote in Romans 9:5 that Christ is God blessed forever. Hebrews 1:8 the father said to the son, quoting Psalms 45, my throne, O God, is for ever and ever."

At christmas time we see that verses from Isaiah 9:6. The great Messianic passage. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called wonderful counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace."

Now, you can understand why Jesus could say, "I and the Father are one." He that has seen me has seen the Father. I don't work unless the Father is working. The Father doesn't work unless I work. We are together in this. We are one and the same. In essences and substance... Different in persona and work, but the same substances. Jesus is all God. The Holy Spirit is all God. The Father is all God. They all are the same substance with the same attributes and abilities. But they are different in work and function.

It is the great mystery. It is not really the Trinity that we are talking about. It is the TRI-UNITY OF GOD.

And Jesus said that you must believe ~~this~~ ^{that I am}. And I say to you that if you want to experience eternal salvation, you must believe that Jesus is exactly who he claims to be. And Jesus said here in vs 24, "If you don't believe that I am ~~the~~, you shall die in your sins." (~~xxxx~~)

(3E) O.K. let's move on. The third area in which we find great rebellion to His true identity was in their understanding. And this is sort off funny. They are saying.. "How, could Jesus teach something that we don't understand. I mean, we are educated men." It is no different today. We assume that because someone has a degree behind his name that he should understand. NOT TRUE.

Vs 25.. "And they were saying to him, who are you?" Now, I would like you to stop and think about that for a moment. They knew that he was from Nazareth. They knew about his father and mother. They knew about his Childhood.

So, when they ask, WHO ARE YOU? they are referring to what He just said. Because no man could have said what he said and have been what they thought he was. WHO ARE YOU? Are you some wird-oh with hopes of self-glory? Are you some being from outer space? Who are you to make such claims?

And Jesus answered them --- Now, let me give you a very lose translation.. Vs 25.. "You dumbes, I have been telling you all a long who I am. I just got through telling you that I am God. I am who I am. I am the eternal God."

You see, that is the whole point. Do you believe this or don't you? And I am asking you, as a congregation, DO YOU BELIEVE THAT? Do you believe that Jesus is the eternal God? Do you believe that He was there when the worlds were created? The Bible says that all things where made by Jesus, and without Him was not anything made that was made. Do you believe that?

You see, the Bible is teaching us that Jesus is everything that He claims to be. And we are to believe it. That is very, very important.

Then in Vs 26 Jesus adds: "I have many thing to speak and to judge concerning you. But, he who sent me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world."

Dear Friend

No ~~man~~ ^{one} could have possible have heard from God on this level, unless he be God. The point here is the issue of authority, I have many things to say to you. But, the Father is true. The point is...my witness for right now, ^{is} in what we are discussing. And He sent me. And what I am speaking is just what I heard from him. So, the Jews would know that Jesus ~~was~~ claiming, ^{again,} equality with God, when He made that statement.

You see, the people would know about ~~the~~ ^{God} Messiah through the avenue of the prophets. ^{of Christ} But, Jesus is saying, "I heard this directly from my Father." I was there. That is my heavenly ^{origin} origin. I know everything that He knows. And He knows everything that I know. I am speaking the will of the heavenly Father. And the issue of His authority is an important issue. He will ~~one~~ ^{WHY - Became one day} ~~be~~ be the judge. But, the point is that I am giving you the witness of who I am. And the Father is true. His witness is true.

Now, how is the Father witnessing to Jesus? He is not only witnessing through Jesus. But, Jesus is saying that what I am saying is the witness of the Father. That is a tremendous point.

and Back in verse 17 and 18 of this chapter, Jesus said that in the testimony ^{of} two or three witnesses every word is established. And that the Father is also witnessing. The truth is that not only does the Father witness of Jesus like the voice from heaven, but Jesus is also saying that the Father is witnessing through what I am saying.

When Jesus is talking, you have the witness of the Father. This is some thing you should get a whole of concerning the equality of Jesus with the Father

Now, In Vs 29 Jesus said that "He who sent me is with me." "The Father has ~~not~~ ^{not left} me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him."

(4E) And that is the fourth point as to why these Jews were rebelling against the identity of Jesus. And that dealt with the presence of the Father in His life. That has always been a big headach. And this is one of the many examples.

He that sent me is with me. The Father has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him."

On another occasion Jesus said, "The father is in me. And I am in him." John 10:20 Jesus said, "I and the Father are one." Tremendous concept.

Let me share another little blessing with you. Jesus is saying that the Father and He are one exactly like christians are one. Did you know that you and I are one in Christ just like the Father and son are... ~~one~~ ONE.

Now, how is that? That which is the same between the Father and son was their ~~nat~~ nature. It was the nature of God himself. Both of them are God. That is why they are one in substance and essences.

Now, with you and me it is exactly the same way. The Bible teaches that Christian are one, not because we have the same likes and dis-likes, or go to the same church, but we are one because of the presence of God in us. The Holy Spirit has ~~come~~ come to live in the lives Christians. And now we christians have the divine nature of God ~~living~~ ^{Life} in us. ~~We have God's life in us.~~ And we are one because the Holy Spirit, God, is dwelling in all of us. Our oneness is just the same as the Father and the son, Who are one because they have the same nature.

Jeus said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." The Father never left me alone. And I will never leave you alone. I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will be with you always even to the end of the age.

When Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, He said that another comfortor is coming. Who will be in you and with you forever. What a blessing to have the assurance of God's presence for ever and ever.

The moment you believe the claims of Jesus, you have the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling in you. And you become one with every other believes. And how we must grieve the H.S. when we talk about other christians, Or, we put them down. And our unity is thus hindered. We are one in our common belief that Jesus is God

Vs 30 is a wonderful verse. It says, "As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him. § Isn't that great. And I just pray that, if you haven't already done so, you may come to believe in Jesus. Because of these words, you would believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

SHALL WE CLOSE IN PRAYER