

## Jesus' Relationship to Abraham

John 8:41-59

### The Devil, Your Father

<sup>41</sup> You do the deeds of your father.” Then they said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.” <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. <sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. <sup>44</sup> You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. <sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. <sup>46</sup> Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? <sup>47</sup> He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.”

### Jesus and Abraham

<sup>48</sup> Then the Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?” <sup>49</sup> Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. <sup>50</sup> And I do not seek My *own* glory; there is One who seeks and judges. <sup>51</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.” <sup>52</sup> Then the Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.’ <sup>53</sup> Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?” <sup>54</sup> Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. <sup>55</sup> Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.” <sup>57</sup> Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” <sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” <sup>59</sup> Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

### Questions:

1. The Jews claimed two fathers - who were these? (v 39, v 41) What did they base their claim on?
2. Who does Jesus say their father is? (v 41, 44) Why is God not their Father?
3. Why couldn't the Jews understand Jesus? (vs 43,47) Why were they not able to listen to His word - what was keeping them from being willing to listen?
4. What does Jesus teach about the devil? How does Jesus compare Himself with the devil? (vs. 44-45) What in His life showed clearly that He was from the Father?
5. From what Jesus says in these verses, what reveals who a person's spiritual father is? (v 47)
6. Why did the Jews resort to a derogatory statement in vs 48 that Jesus is a Samaritan and has a demon? Which of these two accusations does Jesus answer and how does He answer it? (vs 49-51)
7. What did Jesus say that led them to repeat they knew He had a demon? How did they try to discredit Jesus' promise to give eternal life to those who believe His word?
8. Why did they accuse Jesus of honoring Himself as greater than Abraham and the prophets? How does Jesus answer their charge that He is giving Himself too much honor?
9. Even though Abraham died, how did he rejoice to see Jesus' day (the future day when Jesus would come)? How could Abraham see this in the promises God made and kept? (Gen 12:3; 15:4-6; 17:1-8)
10. The Jews thought "How could Jesus say he had seen Abraham when he was less than 50 years old", but how does Jesus go far beyond this in His saying "Before Abraham was, I AM?"