

In Chapter 8 of John’s Gospel, Jesus is speaking to the religious leaders and Pharisees about God’s true children.

37-45 - Jesus made a distinction between hereditary children and true children. The religious leaders were hereditary children of Abraham (who was the founder of the Jewish nation) and therefore, they claimed to be children of God. However, true children of Abraham (or, faithful followers of God) would not act as they did.

The religious leaders were unable to understand the truth that Jesus spoke because they refused to listen. Satan used their stubbornness, their pride, and their prejudices to keep them from believing in the truth of what Jesus was saying.

Jesus said that the attitudes and actions of these leaders clearly identified them as followers of Satan. They may not have been conscious of this, but their hatred of truth, their lies, and their murderous intentions indicated how much control the Devil had over them.

46 - No one in that crowd could accuse Jesus of a single sin. Jesus proved he was God in the flesh by his sinless life, and He is the only perfect example for us to follow.

47-51 - When Jesus says those who obey his teachings won’t die, he is talking about spiritual death, not physical death. Those who trust in and follow Christ will be raised to live eternally with him.

52-56 - God told Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation, that through him all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-21). Abraham was able to see this through the eyes of faith. Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, blessed all people through his death, resurrection, and offer

of salvation. This is how the covenant promise from God to Abraham was fulfilled. Through faith in Christ, all people can be blessed with salvation and eternal life.

57-58 - This is one of the most powerful statements uttered by Jesus. When he said that he existed before Abraham was born, he undeniably proclaimed his divinity. Not only did Jesus say that he existed before Abraham; he also applied God's holy name (I AM—Exodus 3:14) to himself!

In the Greek, what Jesus said was this, “Truly, truly, before Abraham was, I AM!”

This claim by Jesus demands a response from us. It cannot be ignored. Jesus is God. How have you responded to Jesus, the Son of God?

59 - In accordance with the law given in Leviticus 24:16, the religious leaders were ready to stone Jesus for claiming to be God. They well understood what Jesus was claiming, and because they didn't believe he was God, they charged him with blasphemy. Isn't it ironic that they were cursing and attacking the very God they claimed to serve?

Chapter 9

1-3 - A common belief in Jewish culture was that calamity or suffering was the result of some great sin. But Christ used this man's suffering to teach about faith, and to glorify God. We live in a fallen world where good behavior is not always rewarded, and bad behavior is not always punished. Therefore, innocent people sometimes suffer.

If God took suffering away whenever we asked, we might follow him for comfort and convenience, and not out of love and devotion for God.

Regardless of the reasons for our suffering, Jesus has the power to help us deal with it.

When you suffer from a disease, or a tragedy, or a disability of some sort, instead of asking, “Why did this happen to me?” or “What did I do wrong?” or “Why is God punishing me?”

Instead, ask God to give you strength for the trial, and a clearer perspective on what is happening. God may use what you are going through to glorify himself, or to help teach you to trust in him more fully.

4-16 – How many of you were raised in a home where you were not allowed to do certain things on Sunday? When I was young, even stores were closed on Sundays and very few people actually went to work on Sundays because it was considered “The Lord’s Day,” when people were off work so they could worship.

The Jewish Sabbath – Saturday, was the weekly holy day of rest. The Pharisees had made a long list of specific dos and don’ts regarding the Sabbath. Making the mud and healing the man were considered work and therefore were forbidden.

Jesus may have purposely made the mud in order to emphasize his teaching about the Sabbath—that it is right to care for others’ needs even if it involves working on a day of rest.

17-25 - By now the man who had been blind had heard the same questions over and over. He did not know how or why Jesus picked him to heal, but he knew that his life had been miraculously changed, and he was not afraid to tell the truth.

We don't need to know all the answers in order to share Christ with others. It is only important to tell folks how Jesus has changed ***your life***. If we do this, we can trust that God will use our words to help others believe in him too.

May God add his blessing to the reading and hearing of his Word, and may God bless you all. Amen.