

# Title: Give Me Clarity or Give Me Death

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*Text: John 8:33-59*

## Introduction:

1. What the world and the religious community needs today is a shot of clarity.
2. Enough with all the new Bibles, devotionals, self-help books, and Christian entertainment.
3. Let us get down to brass tacks about the spiritual condition of the world.
4. What we need is a fresh and unadulterated view of the words of Jesus straight from His mouth.

Proposition: The utter spiritual hopelessness of mankind must find remedy in Jesus Christ.

Question: Why must the utter spiritual hopelessness of mankind find remedy in Jesus Christ?

Transition: This passage reveals three truths of mankind's redemption in Jesus Christ.

## I. Clear Distinction (33-38)

### A. Spiritual reality of mankind

1. *They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man...* (33)

a) **Who is speaking here?**

- (1) The context is addressing those who believed on Jesus message in the prior verses and those who do not believe in the crowd.
- (2) There seems to be the influence of the flesh in their response, but most likely it was the believers Jesus was addressing.

b) **Oh what pride leads a man to speak?**

- (1) They believed the message of Christ but struggled with Jesus said about freedom.
- (2) The Jewish perspective was that as descendants of Abraham, they held a special position of spiritual freedom as God's chosen people.
- (3) Their response was with at least some indignation.

2. *...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.* (34-38)

a) **Jesus reveals what he meant by going deeper than their connection with Abraham.**

- (1) He leads them to a greater truth, the reality of the nature of sin.
- (2) Mankind, Jew & Gentile, is under the bondage of sin.

b) **Illustration (35-36)**

- (1) The servant in view is a slave or bond servant.
- (2) Jesus illustrates using a common cultural situation between a slave and heir.
- (3) The slave is only part of the household for a period of time, whereas the Son is part of the master's house forever.
- (4) However, the son or heir may bestow upon the slave freedom.

c) **Jesus now addresses those who are the unbelievers (37-38)**

- (1) Jesus acknowledged their physical descent from Abraham.
- (2) However, he quickly points to the fact they are not the spiritual descendants of Abraham.

- (3) The message of Christ is from the Father, whom Abraham served, but they reject the message because they are following another master: the master of sin, Satan.

## **B. Application**

1. **The utter spiritual hopelessness of mankind must find remedy in Jesus Christ.**
2. **We live in a society which is very religious and post-religious.**
  - a) **On the one hand we find, according to one study, over three-quarters of the population of the United States claiming to be Christian.**
  - b) **On the other hand we find a society devoid of biblically traditional values, morals, and external marks of Christianity.**
  - c) **Much like the day of Jesus, we are faced with crowd of people that on the one hand claim a spiritual heritage, but in reality are well on their way to spiritual destruction.**
3. **We might learn from Christ in our approach to the crowd of our day.**
  - a) **Jesus did not belittle their spiritual lives, but challenged them to think deeper.**
  - b) **We also would be wise to determine where people are and then proceed from that starting point.**
    - (1) Many will claim to believe in God: what do they believe about God?
    - (2) Many will claim to believe in Jesus Christ: what do they believe about Jesus?
    - (3) Start where people are at and proceed.
      - (a) It is important we understand our faith enough to share it with others.
      - (b) Seek the help of the Spirit for the right opportunities.

**Transition: The utter spiritual hopelessness of mankind must find remedy in Jesus Christ. This is accomplished by making a clear distinction; followed by marking a clear heritage.**

## **II. Clear Heritage (39-47)**

## A. Jesus discredits their physical and spiritual heritage.

### 1. *...Abraham is our father.*

#### a) **They first attempt to claim spiritual freedom by claiming their physical forefather is Abraham.**

- (1) It was never in doubt Abraham was their progenitor of the nation of Israel.
- (2) As Jews, they claimed their spiritual freedom was directly linked to the blessings of the covenant.

#### b) **Jesus response disregarded their physical heritage Abraham, and focused upon their spiritual heritage in Abraham.**

- (1) The works of Abraham were of faith, which led to God counting it toward him for righteousness (Gen. 15:6).
- (2) They ought to have accepted the message of Jesus as Abraham did.

### 2. *...We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. (41-49)*

#### a) **They understood Jesus' was discrediting their spiritual heritage and they threw a cheap shot at Christ.**

- (1) This may have been a cheap shot on Jesus physical paternity.
- (2) They were not illegitimate spiritually.

#### b) **Jesus in response reveals who their spiritual father truly is: Satan.**

- (1) The bondage of sin which they are under means they serve the master of sin.
- (2) Their master is the father of lies and therefore they cannot discern the truth.
- (3) He then asks them, as His accusers, to provide the burden of proof of his guilt.
- (4) Their failure to receive the message of Christ is because they are spiritually dead.

## B. Application

### 1. **The utter spiritual hopelessness of mankind must find remedy in Jesus Christ.**

### 2. **This passage clearly discredits an equally dangerous doctrine of our own day.**

#### a) **The Jews were under the impression as children of Abraham, they were entitled to the spiritual blessings of the covenant.**

- (1) The reality was they were dead in their sins.
- (2) They needed true repentance and acceptance of Jesus as their Savior.

**b) Our world today has bought into this idea of the Universal Fatherhood of God.**

- (1) Just as Jesus told the Jews of His day their dependence on Abraham was a lie straight from Hell, so is this false doctrine of the Universal Fatherhood of God in our day.
- (2) Universal Fatherhood of God teaches everyone is God's child, regardless of what you believe about God and Jesus.
- (3) It teaches God is love and everyone is saved already, you don't necessarily need Jesus.

**c) We must dispel this lie as Christ did.**

- (1) He again met them where they were at already.
- (2) Using their knowledge and then proceeding to teach them the truth.
- (3) We must bring people back to the very words of Jesus and teach them the truth of His sacrifice for forgiveness of sin.

**Transition: The utter spiritual hopelessness of mankind must find remedy in Jesus Christ. This is accomplished by making a clear distinction; followed by marking a clear heritage; and finally by defining the clear life.**

### **III. Clear Life (48-59)**

#### **A. The spiritual greatness of Jesus over Abraham**

1. *Then answered the Jews. . . Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?*
  - a) This was an insult and slur toward Jesus.
  - b) Samaritans were reviled by the Jews for a number of reasons.
  - c) Someone who was accused of having a devil was to be accused of being out of their mind.
2. *... I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me. (49-51)*

a) **Jesus rebukes them simply by stating His life is to give honor to the Father, in contrast to them.**

- (1) Everything they do, as slaves to darkness and the father of lies, is to destroy the message of God.
- (2) Whereas, as Christ already pointed out, they could not discredit who Jesus is and what He taught.
- (3)

b) **The Father would give Jesus the honor He deserves.**

- (1) The greatest showing of the Father giving honor to Christ is found in salvation.
- (2) All who follow the Light will live eternally.

3. ***...Now we know that thou hast a devil... (52-59)***

a) **Abraham was on a pedestal which could never be reached in the minds and hearts of the Jewish people.**

- (1) Their rejection of the teaching of the O.T. regarding the Messiah led them to this point of rejection.
- (2) They had believed a lie about themselves and Jesus' teachings could not be accepted.

b) **He reveals who He is as the eternal Son of God.**

- (1) The only one who honors the Father is Jesus.
- (2) Abraham himself rejoiced when Jesus came to him.

c) ***I AM.***

- (1) God in the flesh has come down to bring Light.
- (2) The time has come to dispel the lie of darkness with the eternal Son of God.

## **B. Application**

1. **The utter spiritual hopelessness of mankind must find remedy in Jesus Christ.**

2. **The world needs a clear shot of truth.**

a) **Spiritual darkness is only dispelled by the Light of Christ.**

b) **The greatest vindication of the life, ministry, and passion of Christ is the salvation of souls.**

- (1) The Great I Am took on human flesh to redeem a people full of themselves and the lies of the deceiver, Satan.
- (2) He took on flesh, not to condemn, but to dispel the darkness, to redeem mankind from their bed of death.
- (3) What an Awesome God!

**IV. Exhortation: Do you know the eternal Son of God, Jesus? The gift of the Light of the world has been bestowed upon you, what will you do with it today?**