

BOOK FIVE

the Word one to one

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Mixed responses

John 7 vs 1-51

The Feast of Booths was when Jews came to Jerusalem, and lived in tents to remember God's faithful leadership of them during the forty years in the wilderness, after their escape from Egypt. It was one of three major religious holidays.

This section contains four parts:

- Confused responses
- Tables turned
- Life offered
- Division



The box over the page shows the wide range of responses there were as to who Jesus is. Let's look at them:



1. Hatred from the Jews v 1
2. Intrigue - v 11
3. 'He is a good man'... vs... 'No, he deceives the people.' vs 12,13
4. 'You are demon-possessed' v 20
5. 'Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah?' v 26
6. Many people believed in him – because of the signs he did... v 31
7. The chief priests and Pharisees want to arrest him v 32
8. Confusion – ... where will this end? Is he going to go to the Greeks? v 35
9. The people think he really is God's promised prophet v 40
10. Division vs 43,44
11. The officers recognize something unique about him v 45
12. The chief priests and Pharisees think he's a deceiver v 47
13. Nicodemus: Don't you think we should at least give him a hearing? v 51

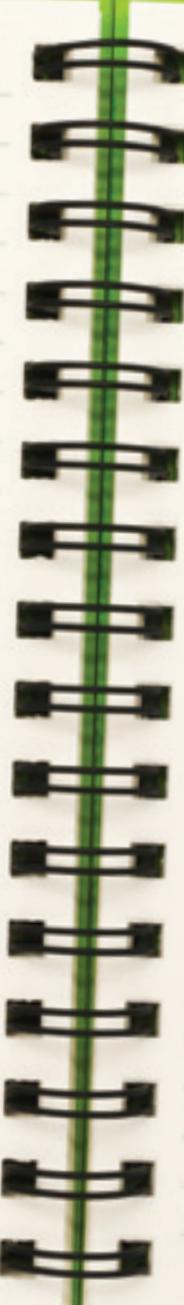


Start Here

Chapter 7

- ¹ After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him.
- ² But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near,
- ³ Jesus' brothers said to him, 'Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do.'
- ⁴ No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.'
- ⁵ For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

- ⁶ Therefore Jesus told them, ‘My time is not yet here; for you any time will do.
- ⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil.
- ⁸ You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.’
- ⁹ After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee.
- ¹⁰ However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret.
- ¹¹ Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, ‘Where is he?’
- ¹² Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, ‘He is a good man.’ Others replied, ‘No, he deceives the people.’



- ¹³ But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.
- ¹⁴ Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach.
- ¹⁵ The Jews there were amazed and asked, ‘How did this man get such learning without having been taught?’
- ¹⁶ Jesus answered, ‘My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me.
- ¹⁷ Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.
- ¹⁸ Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

Confused responses

¹⁹ Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?

²⁰ ‘You are demon-possessed,’ the crowd answered. ‘Who is trying to kill you?’

²¹ Jesus said to them, ‘I did one miracle, and you are all amazed.

²² Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath.

²³ Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man’s whole body on the Sabbath?

²⁴ Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.’

How does Jesus answer
the question of His identity?

He insists He is from God. **v 16**

He insists He is true. **v 18**

What does Jesus then do?

He turns the spotlight on them.

His works support His words –
in contrast they are hypocrites.

vs 21-24

(The ‘one miracle’ that Jesus refers to here is the healing of the paralytic in chapter 5 verses 1–15).

To summarize Jesus’ response – ‘If you wanted to do God’s will (rather than protecting your cherished position) you would recognize my word is God’s will!’

Let's make this personal:

On what grounds would we want to reject or turn down Jesus?

Do we recognize who He is?

If we are going to reject Jesus - on what basis are we doing so?

If his teaching and words are not from God, then where have they come from?

Jesus' teaching is very plain - remember John 5:

John 5 v 23b: 'whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him.'

²⁵ At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, 'Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?'

²⁶ Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah?

²⁷ But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.'

²⁸ Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, 'Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him,

²⁹ but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.'

³⁰ At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.

³¹ Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, 'When the Messiah

Tables turned

comes, will he perform more signs than this man?"

³² The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.

³³ Jesus said, 'I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me.'

³⁴ You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.'

³⁵ The Jews said to one another, 'Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks?'

³⁶ What did he mean when he said, "You will look for me, but you will not find me," and "Where I am, you cannot come"?

What does Jesus say about Himself?

Where He has come from. **vs 28,29**

Where He is going. **v 33**

Why do they not recognize Him or follow Him?

Because they do not know God.
v 28

Because they cannot reach God on their own.

What does Jesus say
about those who reject Him?

- They don't do God's will **v 17**
- They judge by appearances **v 24**
- They don't know God **v 28**
- They can't reach God **v 34**

This results in hostility towards God. **v 30**

But Jesus is in total control throughout **vs 30b,33**

Life offered

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.

³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.’

³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The Feast of Booths involved a lot of water... because in the wilderness God supplied the people with water – on two occasions out of solid rock!

So Jesus makes an amazing offer – what is it?

Living water. He is what the feast was all about – God leading His people as He rescues them.

vs 37,38

In the midst of the confusion and hostility, Jesus offers amazing grace!

Do we want to maintain our lives as they are – or does Jesus' offer challenge us?

⁴⁰ On hearing his words, some of the people said, ‘Surely this man is the Prophet.’

⁴¹ Others said, ‘He is the Messiah.’ Still others asked, ‘How can the Messiah come from Galilee?’

⁴² Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?’

⁴³ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.

⁴⁴ Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

⁴⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, ‘Why didn’t you bring him in?’

⁴⁶ ‘No one ever spoke the way this man does,’ the guards replied.

⁴⁷ ‘You mean he has deceived you also?’ the Pharisees retorted.

⁴⁸ ‘Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him?’

⁴⁹ ‘No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law – there is a curse on them.’

⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked,

⁵¹ ‘Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?’

⁵² They replied, ‘Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.’

Division

⁵¹ ‘Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?’

⁵² They replied, ‘Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.’



How do the people react to Jesus' offer?

They are divided. v 43



The claims of Jesus still divide people today.

Here are three possible responses:

- We choose to ignore the evidence and bury our head in the sand
- We believe in God but on our own terms. But without Jesus – that's rejection
- We act on the evidence, stand out from the crowd and trust Jesus totally

Standing for Jesus can have repercussions though!

What happens to Nicodemus?

He defends Jesus, and his peers mock him.



Ironically even the hostility of the Jews to Nicodemus was wrong. They have failed to ‘Look into it’ where Jesus comes from.

John 7 vs 1-51

¹ After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. ² But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, ³ Jesus' brothers said to him, 'Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do.' ⁴ No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.' ⁵ For even his own brothers did not believe in him. ⁶ Therefore Jesus told them, 'My time is not yet here; for you any time will do.' ⁷ The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. ⁸ You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.' ⁹ After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee. ¹⁰ However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. ¹¹ Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, 'Where is he?' ¹² Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, 'He is a good man.' Others replied, 'No, he deceives the people.' ¹³ But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders. ¹⁴ Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. ¹⁵ The Jews there were amazed and asked, 'How did this man get such learning without having been taught?' ¹⁶ Jesus answered, 'My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. ¹⁷ Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. ¹⁸ Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth;

there is nothing false about him.¹⁹ Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?' ²⁰ 'You are demon-possessed,' the crowd answered. 'Who is trying to kill you?' ²¹ Jesus said to them, 'I did one miracle, and you are all amazed.²² Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath.²³ Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man's whole body on the Sabbath?²⁴ Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.'²⁵ At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, 'Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?²⁶ Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah?²⁷ But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.'²⁸ Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, 'Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him,²⁹ but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.'³⁰ At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.³¹ Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, 'When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?' ³² The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.³³ Jesus said, 'I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me.³⁴ You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.'³⁵ The Jews said

to one another, ‘Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks?’³⁶ What did he mean when he said, “You will look for me, but you will not find me,” and “Where I am, you cannot come”?³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.’³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.⁴⁰ On hearing his words, some of the people said, ‘Surely this man is the Prophet.’⁴¹ Others said, ‘He is the Messiah.’ Still others asked, ‘How can the Messiah come from Galilee?⁴² Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David’s descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?’⁴³ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.⁴⁴ Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.⁴⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, ‘Why didn’t you bring him in?’⁴⁶ ‘No one ever spoke the way this man does,’ the guards replied.⁴⁷ ‘You mean he has deceived you also?’ the Pharisees retorted.⁴⁸ ‘Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him?’⁴⁹ No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law - there is a curse on them.’⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked,⁵¹ ‘Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?’⁵² They replied, ‘Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.’

Next time:

Getting to grips with who Jesus is!

Who Jesus is...

John 8 vs 12-59

You may be wondering why we're not starting at chapter 8 v 1...

While it is generally thought that John 7 v 53 – 8 v 11 was Jesus' teaching, it doesn't appear in many of the earliest manuscripts. It was added to John's account later.

So we start at chapter 8 v 12... still at the Feast of Tabernacles

The themes are the same:

- Who is Jesus?
- What about those who reject Jesus?



There are two parts to this section too:

1. Where are you from and where are you going?
2. Who do you belong to?

Chapter 8

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

¹³ The Pharisees challenged him, 'Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.'

Where are you from?

¹⁴ Jesus answered, 'Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.'

¹⁵ You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one.

¹⁶ But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me.

¹⁷ In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true.

¹⁸ I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.'

What does Jesus imply here about those who choose to reject the light?

They continue to walk in darkness.

v 12

How did the Pharisees react to this?

They object and challenge His credentials.

v 13a

What is the accusation against Him?

He's speaking as His own witness, and therefore His testimony doesn't count.

v 13b

Why do the Pharisees struggle to accept this?

They judge only by human standards.

How does Jesus reply?

Jesus is qualified to testify about Himself because:

- He is the light of the world v 12
- He knows where He comes from v 14
- His decisions are 'backed' by His Father, God v 16
- He therefore passes the test of their law! v 17

The truth is out!

¹⁹ Then they asked him, ‘Where is your father?’ ‘You do not know me or my Father,’ Jesus replied. ‘If you knew me, you would know my Father also.’

²⁰ He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

The Pharisees are still thinking in human terms. They ask – where is your Dad?

What is the fact that Jesus reveals?

- They do not know who Jesus is.
- If they did, they would also know His Father, God!

Who is in control?

Despite their anger, Jesus doesn't get seized – because it's not in His plan.

Verse 20 makes clear Jesus is still in the Temple – which means He is still speaking to the religious leaders of the day, at the Feast of Booths.

Where are you going?

²¹ Once more Jesus said to them, ‘I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.’

²² This made the Jews ask, ‘Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, “Where I go, you cannot come”?’

²³ But he continued, ‘You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.’

²⁵ ‘Who are you?’ they asked. ‘Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,’ Jesus replied.

²⁶ ‘I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.’

Where does Jesus say He's going?

Jesus will return to His Father in heaven – a place they cannot get to. **vs 21,22**

Why can they not go with Him?

Even though they are religious, they are of the world – they don't know God.

How does Jesus raise the stakes even higher?

They will die in their sins, unforgiven – unless they believe in Him.

Once again this raises serious questions about Jesus' authority.

But Jesus doesn't flinch – they face judgement, not Jesus!

Why can we trust Jesus' words instead of those of human beings?

Because His works come from God.

They still don't understand that when Jesus speaks about his Father He is talking about God.

²⁷ They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father.

²⁸ So Jesus said, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.'

²⁹ The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.'

³⁰ Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

How does Jesus spell it out?

He calls Himself the 'Son of Man' (the title for God's absolute ruler who is given all of God's authority to judge and rule all people).

He again uses God's personal name from the Old Testament – I AM!

He speaks of being 'lifted up', which refers to His death on the cross.

So Jesus' death and resurrection will be evidence that He is God.

What is the impact?

Many believe in Him.



Who do you belong to?

Still in the Temple,
Jesus now turns to
those who believe him.

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.'

³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'

³³ They answered him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?'

³⁴ Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.'

³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it for ever.

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Believing in Him – they know the truth.

But what does the truth do?

v 32

Why are they angry?

As God's people – they have never viewed themselves as slaves.

v 33

But what are they slaves to?

Sin. v 34

Who does Jesus say is a slave? Everyone! v 34

What does this mean?

- This includes all of us then!
- We are slaves because we keep on sinning and can't stop... and we are slaves to sin because once we have sinned we will face God's judgement.

What does Jesus say about a slave?

A slave is not part of the family – a son is in the family for all time.

So how do we escape slavery?

Through the death of Jesus, the true Son, being 'lifted up' on the cross. Then we are free!

Where we naturally come from...

³⁷ I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word.

³⁸ I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.'

³⁹ 'Abraham is our father,' they answered. 'If you were Abraham's children,' said Jesus, 'then you would do what Abraham did.'

⁴⁰ As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things.

⁴¹ You are doing the works of your own father.'

In vs 37-47 Jesus shows there are only two spiritual families – the question is 'which do we belong to?'

What are the four logical steps that Jesus says show their true spiritual family?

Step 1: They have a different father

- You show your family membership by behaving the way your father behaves: they want to murder Jesus v 37
- 'I show My family membership by speaking the words I have heard from My Father' v 38

Step 2: Abraham is not their spiritual father

- Abraham cannot be their father. If he were, they'd act the way he did. v 39
- Therefore, they have a different spiritual father. v 41
- Abraham might be their physical father but spiritually they're from a completely different family. v 41

⁴² Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me.

⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.

⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

⁴⁶ Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me?

⁴⁷ Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.’

Step 3: God is not their Father

- If God were their Father, they’d recognize and love Jesus. v 42
- They can’t bear to hear His word. v 43

Step 4: The devil is their father

- They act like the devil. They want to murder Jesus and they are not interested in the truth. vs 44,45
- This is a staggering accusation, and they cannot argue with it! v 46

Why can’t they hear Jesus’ words?

They do not belong to God.

By following these logical steps, what does this tell us about our spiritual family membership if we reject Jesus and His teaching?

Time to pause and recap

As things stand, we are spiritually dead. But Jesus teaches:

John 5 v 24 'Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.'

Without God's Spirit we are lost:

John 6 v 63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you – they are full of the Spirit and life.

We are in darkness – until we follow Jesus:

John 8 v 12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

We don't obey God – and our sins bring death:

John 8 v 23,24 But he continued, 'You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.'



We are slaves to sin... but Jesus provides a wonderful promise of freedom:

John 8 v 31,32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'

This message is for everyone – the religious leaders, those who believed, even those just listening in – everyone needs to trust Jesus.

None of us can reach God on our own – we are all sinners!

If we think we are decent enough to generate a spark of spiritual life on our own – we need to think again!

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, ‘Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?’

⁴⁹ ‘I am not possessed by a demon,’ said Jesus, ‘but I honour my Father and you dishonour me.’

⁵⁰ I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.

⁵¹ Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death.’

⁵² At this they exclaimed, ‘Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death.’

⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?’

⁵⁴ Jesus replied, ‘If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me.’

How do the Jews respond?

They think *He*’s the one from the devil, not them! **v 48**

Jesus is clear – they have it all wrong. **v 49**

How do we know *they* are wrong?

Because Jesus honours God, and they do not. **vs 49,50**

Again they question who Jesus is, but Jesus points to where the proof comes from...

It comes from God glorifying Jesus. **v 54**

When do we see this happen?

At the cross and resurrection.
Remember:

v 28 So Jesus said, ‘When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.’

How do we know Jesus is legitimate?

Unlike the Jews – Jesus knows and obeys God's word.

55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word.

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.'

57 'You are not yet fifty years old,' they said to him, 'and you have seen Abraham!'

58 'Very truly I tell you,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!'

59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

What does Jesus claim about Abraham?

God has shown Abraham who Jesus is and what He came to do – and unlike the Jews in Jesus' day, Abraham was thrilled!

Why does this baffle the Jews?

Abraham has been dead for thousands of years!

What does Jesus claim about Himself?

He is God. He does this by using the name God told Moses the people were to call Him – 'I AM'

How do we know they fully understood what Jesus was claiming in v 58?

Because they immediately pick up stones – to kill Him for blasphemy!

v 59

But who is in control of events?

Jesus! His hour had not yet come. Jesus leaves the Temple unharmed. v 59

Summary

What have we seen today?

Our response to Jesus' teaching will reveal to which spiritual family we really belong.

We need to realize that we are:

- Spiritually blind
- Spiritual slaves
- Not 'naturally' children of God

We need to come to Jesus for:

- Light
- Truth
- Forgiveness and membership into His family

John 8 vs 12-59

¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' ¹³ The Pharisees challenged him, 'Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.' ¹⁴ Jesus answered, 'Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.
¹⁵ You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no

one. ¹⁶ But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me.

¹⁷ In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. ¹⁸ I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.' ¹⁹ Then they asked him, 'Where is your father?' 'You do not know me or my Father,' Jesus replied. 'If you knew me, you would know my Father also.' ²⁰ He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come. ²¹ Once more Jesus said to them, 'I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.' ²² This made the Jews ask, 'Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, "Where I go, you cannot come"?' ²³ But he continued, 'You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.' ²⁵ 'Who are you?' they asked. 'Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,' Jesus replied. ²⁶ 'I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.' ²⁷ They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. ²⁸ So Jesus said, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. ²⁹ The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.' ³⁰ Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you

hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'

³³ They answered him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?' ³⁴ Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.'³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it for ever.³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.³⁷ I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word.³⁸ I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.'³⁹ 'Abraham is our father,' they answered. 'If you were Abraham's children,' said Jesus, 'then you would do what Abraham did.'⁴⁰ As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things.⁴¹ You are doing the works of your own father.' 'We are not illegitimate children,' they protested. 'The only Father we have is God himself.'⁴² Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me.⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!⁴⁶ Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the

truth, why don't you believe me?⁴⁷ Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.'⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, 'Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?' ⁴⁹ 'I am not possessed by a demon,' said Jesus, 'but I honour my Father and you dishonour me.⁵⁰ I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.⁵¹ Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death.'⁵² At this they exclaimed, 'Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death.⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?' ⁵⁴ Jesus replied, 'If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me.⁵⁵ Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word.⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.'⁵⁷ 'You are not yet fifty years old,' they said to him, 'and you have seen Abraham!' ⁵⁸ 'Very truly I tell you,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!' ⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

What's next...
Jesus is the light of
the world!

