



- That Would Prove That:
  - What He Said About Himself Was So!
  - If Only They Would Listen & Believe!

4. But - Instead - They Continued To:

- Disregard His Witness - And:
  - Doubt His Word!
- They Thought They Were In:
  - The Jury Box - And:
    - Whatever They Decided About Jesus:
      - Would Have No Impact:
        - On Them!
- But - They Were Wrong!
  - Because - If They Didn't Believe In:
    - Jesus & His Testimony:
      - Of The Truth:
        - It Would Not Be:
          - A Tragedy For Him:
            - But For Them!
- And So - In 8:21-24:
  - Jesus Confronts Them Then - And Us Today:
    - About The Tragedy Of Unbelief:
      - As We Read - "Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. / Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come. / And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. / I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins!"

5. In These Verses:

- Jesus Describes The Great:
  - Tragedy Of Unbelief:
    - For Those Who Continue To:
      - Disregard His Witness - And:
        - Doubt His Words!
- And So - In 8:21:
  - Jesus Comes Right Out:
    - To Confront Them & Warn:
      - That Unbelief Is Truly:

1. ***A Tragic Thing!***

- Because - When You Doubt Jesus:
  - It Can & Will Lead To:
    - Your Own Peril!
- Because - When It Comes To:
  - Spiritual Truth:
    - It Doesn't Matter What:
      - The Jury Of The Crowd:
        - Thinks About Jesus!
    - But What:
      - The Judge - Who Is Jesus!
        - Thinks & Knows About Them! And You!
- And We See This In 8:21 - As We Hear Jesus Again:
  - Saying - "I Go My Way, And Ye Shall Seek Me, and Shall Die In Your Sins: Whither I Go, Ye Cannot Come!"
    - When Jesus Said - "I Go My Way!"
      - Its Something That He Said Before! (In 8:14 - "I Know Where I Am Going!")
      - (In 7:33 - "Yet A Little While I Am With You, And Then I Go Unto Him That Sent Me!")
- It Is Clear That:
  - Jesus Knew Where He Was From!

- Why He Came! As Well As:
  - Where & When He Would Return, After Completing:
    - His Mission!
- This Statement Takes In:
  - Every Step He Would Take:
    - On His Way Back To His Heavenly Home!
      - Including His Life Of Service / His Sacrificial Death / His Glorious Resurrection & Ascension To His Father!
  - And - Each Step Of His Journey:
    - Was Taken Personally & Purposefully:
      - By Jesus!
- But - Since They Did Not Believe:
  - In Jesus Or His Mission:
    - They Would Experience Tragedy:
      - Instead Of Triumph:
        - Because Of Their Sin!
        - They Would:
- Experience Defeat!
  - When Jesus Says:
    - “And Ye Shall Seek Me!”
      - He Does Not Mean That:
        - They Would Seek Him:
          - The Right Way - But:
            - In Their Own Way!
    - And - Eventually - We Will See The Fulfilment:
      - Of Jesus’ Words:
        - In Their Own Lives!
  - When Jesus Finished His Work & Went On His Way:
    - They Did Not Seek Him:
      - In An Honest Way:
        - But - In A Harmful Way!
          - To Keep His Witness From Spreading!
  - Or - If They Were Still Seeking For:
    - The Messiah - After Jesus Went On His Way:
      - Their Search Would Be Futile!
        - Because - There Is No Messiah:
          - Other Than Jesus!
  - Unbelief Is A Tragic Thing:
    - Because - Through It - You Will Experience:
      - Defeat! You Will Keep Seeking & Searching For Something:
        - That Can Never Be Found!
          - **IE:** Pouch Of Money At My Grandma’s House!
  - But - Unbelief Is Also Tragic:
    - Because - Through It You Will Also:
- Experience Death!
  - Jesus Adds In 8:21 - That Instead Of:
    - Finding What They Might Seek:
      - As An Unbeliever:
        - You “Shall Die In Your Sins!”
          - Or - “Sin” - Singular Here - The Sin Of Unbelief!
  - When You Do Not Believe In Jesus Christ:
    - You Are Only Hurting Yourself!
      - And - Any Of Your Own:
        - Purposes & Plans & Pursuits:
          - In This Life - Will Come To Nothing:
            - Apart From Him!
  - Of Course - We Are Familiar With:
    - Romans 6:23 - That Tells Us That:

- “The Wages For Sin Is Death!”
  - But - Jesus Does Not Here Say:
    - That You Will Just Die *Because* Of Your Sin!
    - Though True!
- But That - You Will Die:
  - “*In* Your Sin!”
    - Which Means:
      - No Atonement For Your Sin By Jesus!
      - No Forgiveness Of Your Sin By Jesus! And:
      - No Freedom From Your Sin By Jesus!
- What A Tragic Way To Die!
  - But Even Further - Unbelief Means That:
    - You Will Also:
- Experience Doom!
  - Because - Jesus Adds In 8:21:
    - “Whither I Go, Ye Cannot Come!”
      - Jesus Was Going:
        - To The Place Of The Presence Of God The Father!
        - His Heavenly Home!
  - But - When You Remain In:
    - A State Of Unbelief:
      - There Will Never Be Any Possibility:
        - To Join With Jesus:
          - Where He Is Going!
    - Because - His Place Is A Place:
      - Of Perfection & Purity!
        - Hebrews 12:14 - “Without Holiness” – “No Man Shall See The Lord!”
- So - When You Do Not Believe:
  - In Jesus As Your Savior From Sin:
    - Not Only Will You Die:
      - *Because* Of Your Sin - You Will Die:
        - *In* Your Sin - And:
          - Will End Up Paying For Your Sin - Forever:
            - Apart From God!
  - Are These Difficult Words To Hear?
    - Yes! But - Is It The Truth?
      - Absolutely! But:
        - Jesus Is Still Full:
          - Of Grace & Truth!
    - If Jesus Wasn’t Gracious:
      - He Wouldn’t Have Warned Them & Us:
        - About The Truth!
          - The Truth About What Sin & Unbelief Will Do To You!
  - Unbelief Is A Tragic Thing!
    - In The Hearts Of Those Who Are Unsaved:
      - And Saved!
        - Often - Doubt Creeps In!
    - And Though - May Not Experience:
      - Ultimate Death & Doom!
        - Can Experience Defeat & Despair!
    - Listen To Hebrews 3:12:
      - “Take Heed, Brethren, Lest There Be In Any Of You An Evil Heart Of Unbelief!”
        - Unbelief Is A Tragic Thing!

\* But Also - We Can See That Unbelief Is:

## 2. ***A Telling Thing!***

- That Is - Unbelief Tells On Itself!
  - You Can Know There Is In You:
    - “An Evil Heart Of Unbelief” When:

- You Respond To Jesus:
  - The Way The People Did:
    - In 8:22 - "Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come!"
- This Response Is Telling:
  - Not So Much Because Of:
    - What They Say - But:
      - Because Of:
        - What They Don't Say!
  - After Jesus Warned Them:
    - Out-Right - That:
      - They Will "Die In Their Sins!"
        - We Find:
- No Personal Acceptance:
  - Of Jesus' Words To Them & About Them!
    - Instead - They Completely Ignore:
      - What He Said About:
        - What Might Be Their End!
          - And Instead - Focus Solely On - What Might Be His End!
  - **IE:** Once Again - We Find The Crowd With The Common Disease Of "Selective Hearing!" Hearing Only What They Want To Hear! Not What They Need To Hear!
    - And - When This Happens:
      - Misunderstanding Is Sure To Follow!
        - So They Wonder - "Will He Kill Himself?"
    - And Yet - They Did Not Realize That:
      - They Were Really:
        - Killing Themselves:
          - Through Their Rebellion & Rejection Of Jesus!
  - When You Do Not Accept:
    - Jesus Words To You Or About You:
      - Personally - Beware!
        - Because - Your Unbelief:
          - Is Telling On You!
    - But - We Also Find In This Response:
- No Personal Application:
  - Of Jesus' Warning To Them & For Them!
    - In The Rest Of 8:22:
      - The People Quote Jesus:
        - Word For Word!
          - "Whither I Go, Ye Cannot Come!"
    - But - They Failed To:
      - Heed - Or Even Hear:
        - The Warning In Jesus' Words!
  - And This Is Why Unbelief:
    - Is Such A Tragic Thing!
      - Because - Even When It Tells On Itself:
        - It Remains Hidden:
          - To The Unbelieving Heart!
      - So - Whenever Your Ears:
        - Are Opened - To Hear:
          - The Words Or Warnings:
            - Of God - Heed Them!
        - Accept Them & Apply Them:
          - Personally! Actively! Diligently!
            - Do Not Ignore Them!
              - Because God Is At Work In Your Heart!
      - Again - Hebrews 3:12:
        - "Take Heed, Brethren, Lest There Be In Any Of You An Evil Heart Of Unbelief!"

- However - Sadly:
  - This Was Not The Case For Those Jews!
  - And That Is Because Unbelief Is Also:

### 3. *A Tough Thing!*

- That Is - Unbelief Is A Tough Thing:
  - And - Even An Impossible Thing:
    - To Overcome On Your Own!
      - And That Is Why Jesus Responds To Them The Way He Does Next:
        - In 8:23 - “And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world!”
  - There Is A “Great Gulf Fixed” Between:
    - A Sinner & The Savior!
      - Just Like The “Great Gulf” That Jesus Described In Luke 16:
        - When He Told His Disciples The Story About The Rich Man & Lazarus!
    - When Lazarus Died:
      - He Was “Carried Away By The Angels Into Abraham’s Bosom!” (16:22)
        - A Paradise Of Peace & Comfort!
          - But:
    - When The Rich Man Died:
      - “In Hell He Lift Up His Eyes, Being In Torments!” (16:23)
        - And The Difference Between:
          - Both Men & Their Destinations Was Infinitely Great!
    - So That - As Abraham Told The Rich Man:
      - 16:26 - “There Is A Great Gulf Fixed: So That They Which Would Pass From Hence To You Cannot; Neither Can They Pass To Us, That Would Come From Thence!”
  - But - What Was True For Them:
    - At Death - Jesus Reveals:
      - Is True In Life As Well!
    - Unbelief Is Such A Tough Thing:
      - Because:
  - Unbelievers Can’t Come To Jesus On Their Own!
    - And - They Can’t Come To Jesus:
      - Because They Belong To:
        - An Entirely Different Country & Region!
          - As Jesus Said - 8:23a - “Ye Are From Beneath; I Am From Above!”
    - As Unbelievers - They Belonged To:
      - The Regions “Beneath” / “Below!”
        - **IE:** The Spiritual “Netherlands!”
      - Whereas - Jesus Belonged To:
        - The Region “Above!”
          - Even - Heaven Itself!
    - Now - When Jesus Said These Words:
      - He Was Still In The Temple!
        - Which Was Set On A Hill - Mount Zion!
          - The Place Of God’s Presence On Earth - And The:
            - Point Of Contact Between God & Man!
      - So - Its As If Jesus Was Telling Them:
        - In Their Own Temple - That:
          - Because Of Their Unbelief:
            - They Had No Part There!
        - They Were From:
          - The Country & Region Of The Valleys That Surrounded Them!
            - Valleys That Were Considered Unclean & Full Of Wickedness!
      - They Were From The Same Region:
        - Of The Rich Man!
          - Even Hell Itself!
        - And So - They Couldn’t Come To Jesus:
          - On Their Own!

- But - In Addition To This:
- Unbelievers Can't Comprehend Jesus On Their Own!
  - And - They Can't Comprehend Jesus:
    - Because They Have An:
      - Entirely Different Culture Than Jesus!
        - As Jesus Said - 8:23b - "Ye Are Of This World; I Am Not Of This World!"
  - The "World" - That Jesus Describes Here:
    - Is The Fallen World - That:
      - We Know & Experience All Too Well!
        - It Is The "World Of Wickedness!" (1 John 4:19)
  - And - Just Like The Different Countries In This World:
    - There Is A Distinct Spiritual Culture:
      - That We All Have:
        - Apart From God!
    - We Have Our Own:
      - Language / Food / Purpose!
        - **IE:** Some Culture Shock In The Places We've Visited!
- But - This Is Why Unbelief:
  - Is Such A Tough Thing:
    - To Overcome! Because:
  - Jesus Is From:
    - A Different Country! He Is From:
      - The Regions "Above!"
      - Above The Earth!
      - Above The Temple! And Even:
      - Above The Clouds Themselves!
        - He Is From The Heavenly Home Of God!
    - But - He's Is Not Only:
      - *From* There - He Is:
        - *Like* There!
          - Or Rather - His Home Is *Like* Him!
      - Sometimes One's Character Can Be Explained By Their Country!
        - Stereotype? Sure! But - Sometimes Accurate!
          - Paul - Titus 1:12 - "The Cretians Are Always Liars!"
    - And - There Is A "Great Gulf Fixed" Between:
      - Those Who Are From Beneath - And:
        - The One Who Is From Above!
  - Also - Jesus Has:
    - A Different Culture! He Is Not Of This World!
      - And So - His Customs:
        - Cannot Be Understood By:
          - Those Who "Are Of This World!"
    - There Is - Even In Life:
      - A "Great Gulf Fixed!"
  - And So - The Only Way:
    - To Be Able To Come To Jesus - And:
      - To Comprehend Jesus:
        - Is To Be Changed By Jesus:
          - And Brought By Him - Out Of Our Darkness & Into His Marvelous Light! (1 Peter 2:9)
  - And - When This Happens:
    - When Jesus Breaks Through Your Heart Of Unbelief - You Will Belong To:
      - A New Country & Have A New Culture!
        - So Different Than This World's!
          - Is This True For You?
  - Though Unbelief Is A Tough Thing:
    - To Overcome - Its Not Impossible!
      - And That Is Why Jesus' Words Should Become:

4. ***A Trying Thing:***

- In Your Heart & Life!
  - Though The Crowd Ignored Jesus The First Time!
    - In 8:24 - Jesus Repeats The Words:
      - They Needed Most - Twice!
        - “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins!”
  - In Grace - He Said These Words:
    - Because - “To Die With One’s Sins Unrepented And Unatoned For Is The Supreme Disaster!” (Leon Morris)
      - And So - When It Comes To Your Sin & Unbelief - You Need To Take It:
        - Personally & Seriously!
  - I Wonder - With Each Time:
    - Jesus Gave His Warning:
      - Did He Stress Them Differently?
        - To Get Them To Sink In?
- Perhaps - In 8:21 - He Said It This Way:
  - “Ye Shall Die In Your **SIN!**”
    - To Get Them To See:
      - The Great Problem:
        - Of Their Sin Against God!
          - Against Him!
- Does The Problem Of Sin:
  - Of Your Sin:
    - Concern You? At All?
      - If So - Then Why Won’t You Repent From Your Sin:
        - And Believe?
- Or Then - In 8:24 - Perhaps He Said It This Way:
  - “Ye **SHALL DIE** In Your Sins!”
    - If You Persist In Your Sin:
      - The Consequence Of Death:
        - Is Certain! Separation!
          - Physical / Spiritual / Eternal!
- Does The Punishment For Sin:
  - For Your Sin:
    - Concern You? In Any Way?
      - If So - Then Why Won’t You Turn From Your Sin & Turn To & Trust In Jesus As Your Savior?
- And Then Again - In 8:24 - Perhaps He Said These Words This Way:
  - “**YE** Shall Die In **YOUR** Sins!”
    - So - The Sins You Will Die In & For:
      - Are Yours - And:
        - Noone Else’s!
      - They Belong To You - And So:
        - You Are Worthy Of Death!
- Does The Possession Of Sin:
  - Of Your Sin:
    - Concern You?
      - If So:
- Remember God’s Plea:
  - Ezekiel 33:11 - “As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die!”
    - Take These Words & Warnings:
      - From Jesus - Personally - And:
        - To Heart!

**Conclusion:**

1. Because - The Only Solution:



- Is What Jesus Offers:
  - There In 8:24! Though It Is True That:
    - “Ye Shall Die In Your Sins!”
    - It Is Only True - “If Ye Believe Not That I Am He!” - Or - “I Am!”
- 2. Once Again - Jesus Describes Himself:
  - In Terms Of The Living God:
    - Who Appeared To Moses - And Told Him His Name:
      - “I Am That I Am!” (Exodus 3:14)
  - And - As The Great “I Am” - He Is:
    - All He Claims To Be!
      - He Said - “I Am The Bread Of Life!” - So He Is!
      - He Said - “I Am The Light Of The World!”
  - And Though Jesus Came Into This World:
    - As A Man:
      - Yet - He Is & Remains:
        - The Holy One Of Israel:
          - Who Came To Fulfill All That Was Prophesied About Him:
            - In The Scriptures!
- 3. And So - You Can Trust His Testimony!
  - And - When God Pricks Your Heart:
    - With His Truth:
      - Don’t Ignore It!
      - Don’t Doubt It!
      - But - Believe It! Depend On It! Cling To It!
        - And - Continue To:
          - More And More!
  - Because - Unbelief:
    - Is Still A Great Tragedy!
      - Not Just For:
        - Those Who Are Unsaved!
          - But - Even For Those:
            - Who Are Saved!
- 4. Unbelief Can Still Creep In!
  - And - When It Does:
    - It Will Affect You & Your Relationship With God!
      - It Will Affect:
        - Your Mind!
          - Through Doubt & Despair:
            - Instead Of Hope!
        - Your Heart!
          - So That You Too:
            - Might “Leave Your First Love!” / And “Love The World & The Things That Are In The World!”
        - Your Will!
          - So That You Will Pursue:
            - After Things In Your Old Country / Culture - Instead Of Your New, Heavenly One!
- 5. Remember Hebrews 3:12-13:
  - “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. / But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin!”

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