

## Before Abraham Was I AM

### John 8: 48-59

- Most contact sports played with a ball: illegal to tackle a player without the ball
- It is unscrupulous when someone attacks a person's character in a debate
- The term is known as "argumentum ad hominem" it's a clever way of deflecting
- It's a manner of knocking the person out of the game without playing the ball
- Jesus' hearers could not win their argument against Him because He is the truth
- They resorted to ridiculing & calling into question His very person & character

#### I. The Giver of Life (John 8:48-51)

- Generally people do not like being told they are not of God (8:47)
  - They attack Jesus' character: "Are you not a Samaritan & demon possessed?"
  - Calling Jesus a 'Samaritan' = 'half breed' & "demon possessed" great insult.
  - Jesus answers there slur, "I Am from God" and "I bring eternal life" (48: 8-51)
- 1) Jesus responds to this insult by saying: That He honors the Father (8:59) and the Father will honor Him.
  - 2) The Father will prove Jesus right: 'And I do not seek my own glory,' 'there is one who seeks and judges' (50)
  - 3) Jesus adds that He is the giver of life: "Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."(51)

#### II. The Promised One (John 8:52-56)

- Their hatred grows, they ask a question: "Are you greater than Abraham?" (53)
- Jesus answers "Abraham rejoiced to see my day, he saw it and was glad" (56)
- Jesus tells them His motives were not self-seeking but for God's glory alone (54)
- His whole ministry testifies to the reality that His honor is from God (54)

#### III. God Incarnate (John 8: 57-59)

- Their 3<sup>rd</sup> objection: "You are not yet fifty years old, & have you seen Abraham?"
- Jesus answer: "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." (58)
- They respond with determined hatred to kill him: So they picked up stones to throw at him (59)