

GOSPEL OF JOHN
“RESPONDING TO JESUS”
JOHN 8:47-51

Introduction

Here we have Jesus Christ in the Temple at Jerusalem presenting the Truth of God! **He has declared that only by faith in Him can anyone have everlasting life!**

Jesus Christ was teaching the people that they all were sinners and that He was the only One Who could take away their sin. It was a wonderful message of His marvelous grace!

He proclaimed that any who would believe on Him would have life! He backed up His message by His amazing **miracles** which truly displayed the power of God and confirmed that He WAS sent by His Heavenly Father!

No ordinary person has the voice of the Father speaking and the Holy Spirit descending on them like a dove at their baptism!

No ordinary person could turn water into wine!

No ordinary human could tell a person everything about their life and know all their thoughts!

No ordinary human could heal someone from a distance.

No ordinary person could heal an impotent man causing him to walk!

No ordinary human can multiply 5 loaves of bread and two fish to feed a multitude of 5000+ the way Jesus did!

You would think that the Pharisees, the religious leaders of the Jews, would have rallied around Him, loved Him, supported Him and believed on Him and praised God that Messiah had finally been manifested!

But they did not. They not only rejected Jesus Christ, they branded Him as demonic and they wanted to kill Him. Why? Because He told them the Truth of God. And they didn't like the Truth of God!

Listen closely, when the truth of God is presented to very religious people who are not really right with God, they will say terrible things about the one presenting the truth and will try to bring them down and destroy them!

That is precisely what happened to Jesus Christ and it is still happening today to many who have believed on Christ and try to live godly in Christ Jesus!

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Now we see here that Jesus Christ had just exposed the truth about these people. He looked them straight in the eyes, right in the temple and said *“Ye are of your father the devil and the lusts of your father ye will do!”* (8:44)

Don't you imagine that drove up the rage that was already within them? I can just imagine the redness of their faces their blood pressure skyrocketed!

The fact is that these Pharisees did not like it one bit! The truth was stinging them, and it was convicting them. **When one is convicted by God they can:**

1. **Respond to the conviction properly by repenting and getting right with God, which is the right thing to do;**
2. **Respond to the conviction by getting away from the one presenting the truth that is convicting you;**
(“I ain't listening to this!”)
3. **Respond by trying to DISCREDIT the one presenting truth that is convicting you!**
4. **Respond by trying to DESTROY the one presenting the truth that is convicting you.**

These Pharisees in the Temple opted for the last two.

Let's take a look at our text:

- I. **WE SEE THESE RELIGIOUS JEWS RESPONDED TO JESUS' TEACHING OF THE TRUTH OF GOD! (Vs 48)**
Jesus had just told these Jews that they will die in their sin! (Vs 24)
He speaks the truth of God and they do not hear it **because they are not of God. (Vs 47)** That preposition *“of”* in *verse 47* denotes origin! It is translated from a word that literally means *“out of; from.”*

What this means is that they were not in a right relationship with God and they had never been “in” a right relationship with God. Oh they were religious, but their entire religious life was not connected to God! So in this verse, the Jews responded to Jesus.

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A. The First Response! (Vs 48a):

“...say we not well...”

Our verbal assessment of you is right, and you prove it!

(i.e. No matter what you say to us, we believe we are right and you are wrong, end of argument! And you continue to prove it)

We need to learn a very important lesson here. We may believe that we are right in our theological grasp of something, but we might just be dead wrong! They were!

(e.g. Until any person comes to terms with the fact that Jesus Christ is God and the only Saviour of the world, they are dead wrong, no matter how religious they may appear to be!)

B. The Second Response! (Vs 48b)

“...thou art a Samaritan...”

What is so interesting is that the Samaritans clearly identified Christ as being a pure Jew! **(4:9, 22, 25)** And there were many of the Samaritans that believed! **(4:41-42)**

The Jews considered the Samaritans to be beneath them. This verbal charge is a contemptible expression because the Samaritans were a mixed people, not pure blood Jews and the Jews also viewed them as religious heretics.

Christ actually did a couple of things that leant fuel to this charge:

1. He rejected the Jewish religious traditions held by Pharisees! (The Samaritans did too!)
2. He associated with and even saved Samaritan people!

C. The Third Response! (Vs 48c)

“...and hast a devil”

Now these were very religious people who actually said that they had a good relationship with God. **(Vs 54b)**

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These were religious people who regularly went to the Temple in which every aspect of the Temple worship and sacrifice pointed to the Messiah!

They look Messiah in the face and call Him demonic! This is actually the unpardonable sin. When Jesus Christ was here on earth and presented Himself as God in the power of the Holy Spirit, if one were to say He was doing it by the power of Satan, that was the sin God would not forgive! **(Mark 3:28-30)**

Keep in mind that all of these responses were due to the fact that Jesus is teaching the truth! When you present the truth about the Grace of God to a religious world proud of their works, many will oppose you and try to discredit you!

WE SEE THESE RELIGIOUS JEWS RESPONDED TO JESUS’ TEACHING OF THE TRUTH OF GOD!

II. WE SEE JESUS RESPONDED TO THE RELIGIOUS JEWS ASSESSMENT OF HIM! (Vs 49-51)

We see Jesus answered them in a straightforward manner:

A. The First Response! (Vs 49a)

“I have not a devil...”

In fact, the truth was and is just the opposite of what all of these religious leaders were alleging! Oh, **He was supernatural**, but **He was NOT a devil, but rather He was and is God in the flesh!** (The **“Immanuel”** spoken of in **Isaiah 7:14**)

B. The Second Response! (Vs 49b)

“...but I honor My Father.”

EVERYTHING Jesus Christ did and said was that which honored His Heavenly Father. **They are calling Him demonic when in fact He was honoring God...i.e. A slap against God!**

If these religious leaders would have said anything positive about Jesus Christ, don’t you imagine that the nation of Israel could have caught fire for God?

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But they were too busy attacking Jesus Christ because God’s truth was convicting them!

C. The Third Response! (Vs 49c)
“...and ye do dishonour me”

When a person **rejects the truth presented by Jesus Christ and about Jesus Christ**, that person **dishonors Jesus Christ!**

If you reject salvation “by grace through faith alone” in the finished work of Christ on the cross with **no works or law keeping required** on our part, then you dishonor Jesus!

If you reject the doctrine of eternal security, you dishonor Jesus Christ because He taught these things and then appeared directly to Paul to reveal His Gospel and Paul taught those same things as did the other Apostles!

This is more than just a difference of theological opinion!
This has to do with dishonoring Jesus Christ which is dishonoring God!

D. The Fourth Response! (Vs 50a)
“And I seek not mine own glory...”

If Jesus Christ came to earth to seek His own glory, He surely failed! Mostly, He was despised! In the end these same religious Jews had the people crying out for His crucifixion just after His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem! (My how fickle!)

There are people who still hate Him today and wish that us Believers, would just shut up about our Jesus! **Most hate Him because He tells the truth and when confronted with the truth, they can’t handle the truth!**

It is quite obvious that Jesus never sought His own glory, but rather the glory of His Father in Heaven!

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E. The Fifth Response! (Vs 50b)
“...there is one that seeketh and judgeth.”

(i.e. Jesus was saying God the Father did seek His Glory and that He would judge people accordingly.)

Philippians 2:6-11

God the Father sanctions the honoring of God the Son.
If God the Father seeks to have God the Son honored, those who refuse to honor the Son also dishonor the Father and will face the severe judgment of God!

F. The Sixth Response! (Vs 51)
“Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.”

“Verily, Verily” is an emphatic stress that Christ used to say He is telling dogmatic truth. (i.e. **“Truly, Truly”**)

Now when Christ said **“if a man keeps My saying,”** He was referring to the **“believing on”** Him which He continually stressed was essential for eternal life! (Vs 24)

Christ is promising here that there is a death (He’s speaking of **“eternal death.”**) that one will **not** have to experience if they do something that He has specifically said.

And the word that He specifically spoke that can keep one from eternal death is believe in Him!

And Christ has already specifically said that if they would not believe on Him, they would die in their sin. **The only word God asks us to keep to be saved is believe on Jesus Christ!**

If we do that, we have eternal life. This is the word He spoke and His Word is true!

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Conclusion

So, how have you responded to Jesus?

In Salvation, do you know Him today?

In Sanctification, are you growing more into His likeness?

In Service, what you really doing for the LORD?

(And just attending Church does not count! That's for you!)