

What Jesus Claimed

John 8:48-58

READ

48 The Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?" **49** Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. **50** "But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. **51** "Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." **52** The Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets also; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word, he shall never taste of death.' **53** "Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?" **54** Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; **55** and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I shall be a liar like you, but I do know Him, and keep His word. **56** "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." **57** The Jews therefore said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" **58** Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

In the interchange between Jesus and the Jews preceding this passage they were arguing with Him about who He was. Here He was standing right in front of them performing miracles and teaching things that could only have come from God, and they were arguing with Him about who and what He was. I find this to be one of the most interesting exchanges that has been recorded for us in the scriptures. These people saw and refused to accept. How often have you heard people say if I had lived then, I would have recognized Jesus for who He was, I would have believed and followed Him? In the account of the rich man and Lazarus when the rich man asks...

Luke 16:27-31

1

27 "And he said, 'Then I beg you, Father, that you send him to my father's house – **28** for I have five brothers - that he may warn them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'**29** "But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them,'**30** "But he said, 'No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!'"**31** "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.'"

These people in John 8 have Jesus standing right in front of them and they are accusing Him of anything they can think of just to keep from accepting Him as the Son of God. You are a Samaritan who has a demon. Note the conversation just before this passage in John...

John 8:42-47

READ

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me; for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. **43** "Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. **44** "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies. **45** "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. **46** "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? **47** "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."

Pay close attention to the accusation that Jesus levels against them.

2

“If God, were your Father, then”

His point is simple, man can only accept who Jesus claimed to be, when he first accepts God as the one and only God. Do you see the logic in that? Jesus is so closely aligned with God in purpose, plan, and Love for man, that to try and believe in one without the other is to be incomplete and lacking.

John 1:1-4

3

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

Jesus was so perfectly aligned with God, that He could tell Philip...

John 14:8-9

4

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Interestingly enough the claims that Jesus made about Himself in today's world would probably get Him diagnosed as insane and institutionalized. 5 Nothing was any different then, those that heard Him either thought He was insane or they believed.

John 8:48-58

6

58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

Try telling someone, in all seriousness, that you were eternal, that you were there at the beginning, that you existed before time? How fast do you think you would wind up in a strait jacket? They would conclude you to be mad, and rightly so.

But if you did what no one before you had ever done, like taking five little loaves of bread and two fishes and miraculously feeding thousands, (**John 6:1-15**), they might have second thoughts about the genuineness of your claims.

I think there is a reason why all four of the Gospel writers record the account of the feeding of the 5 thousand as seen in (**Matt 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15**), and it is so that there would be not the slightest doubt about so many having had their hunger satisfied.

Jesus' miracles in the New Testament are called signs, that word comes from the Greek word *σημεία*. They showed who He was.

Semeion

7

(NT:4592), "a sign, mark, indication, token," is used (a) of that which distinguished a person or thing from others, e. g., Matt 26:48; Luke 2:12; Rom 4:11; 2 Cor 12:12 (1 st part); 2 Thess 3:17, "token," i. e., his autograph attesting the authenticity of his letters; (b) of a "sign" as a warning or admonition, e. g., Matt 12:39, "the sign of (i. e., consisting of) the prophet Jonas"; 16:4; 2:34; 11:29,30; (c) of miraculous acts (1) as tokens of divine authority and power, e. g., Matt 12:38,39

He made no effort to do the things He did in secret, unobserved, His miracles were visible and unmistakable. They were in the realm of the physical world doing things that no man should or could do; calming storms, healing of real physical diseases, making food materialize out of nothingness and then feeding thousands with it, raising the dead, etc.

The physical miracles of Jesus were intended to show to those listening that His words were true, were from God, because only God had the power to do the things being done. They were intended to show Him as God, because only God can suspend nature the way miracles do.

John 9:31-34

8

31 "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him. **32** "Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. **33** "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." **34** They answered and said to him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they put him out.

I find it interesting that when faced with the evidence they had no answer for, they chose to remove the evidence from their presence. Exactly what we see with people today when they don't like what they hear, they quit listening. They had no answer for the things Jesus was doing and when He gave them the explanation, which they knew had to be true, they quit listening, they tried to fabricate any sort of outlandish ideas to explain what they chose to ignore. Does this sound familiar at all?

Jesus told them how these things were being done, He claimed Deity. He was not of this Earth, as is every other human being.

Remember what we saw in...

John 1:1-5

9

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

In the beginning was the Word.

Logos (log'-os)

10

NT:3056 something said (including the thought); by implication a topic (subject of discourse), also reasoning (the mental faculty) or motive; by extension, a computation; specifically (with the article in John) the Divine Expression (i.e. Christ):

Now this is to be distinguished from material substances, physical things. It means intelligence from which our English word logic is derived. Jesus was the immaterial intelligence which gave birth to everything there is.

John 4:24

11

24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Jesus defined God's essence as "spirit." He is not material in His eternal substance. The Word is defined as God and is therefore also spiritual in substance. But John says...

John 1:14-15

12

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. **15** John bore witness of Him, and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'"

This eternal Word "became flesh". There are some reasons we can extrapolate as to why it was necessary for Jesus to become flesh.

13

- 1) It was the fulfillment of God's plan to offer man the opportunity for redemption
- 2) It showed man through material demonstrations, signs, that we should believe everything He said about the reality of God

The point being that only the one who established the laws of this world could supersede them, that one being God.

In His response in **John 8**, Jesus made an absolute claim...

14 ***"Before Abraham was, I am"***

I am reminded of the answer that God gave to Moses...

Ex 3:13-14

15

13 Then Moses said to God, 'Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?' **14** And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Jesus does not reveal what He is but simply, that He is — that He has always been — that He is not a creature of time in His flesh as we are, but God incarnate, as He always was. He distinguished Himself as being from above whereas all of us are of this world.

Col 2:8-10

16

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. **9** For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, **10** and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

While He was on earth as Man, Jesus was the manifestation of God in human form, the revelation of God in Heaven, the Creator and sustainer of all things.

Jesus claimed to be the answer for every need of man. He says that...

17 ***"I am the bread of life"***

John 6:35

18

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Jesus claims to be the bread of life, the bread that brings life, gives life, *guarantees* life. It is understood that He is not speaking of physical life as He says that the one who believes in Him will never thirst. He offers this life, which must be spiritual life, is offered to all, believers and unbelievers, all that would have it. That is God's plan. He wants all men to repent and come to Him.

But this offer of Eternal life is not automatically given to all, only to those who seek it by faith...

John 1:12-13

19

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, . even to those who believe in His name, **13** who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The one who does not receive Him, who does not seek Him, who does not eat of this Bread of Life, is eternally lost, he who eats of this Bread has eternal life and will never thirst again. It was necessary for Him to come and die so we could live.

John 6:54-58

20

54 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. **55** "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. **56** "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. **57** "As the living Father sent Me,

and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. **58**
"This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died, he who eats this bread shall live forever."

The word here that is translated eat comes from the Greek...

Trogo

21

NT:5176), primarily, "to gnaw, to chew," stresses the slow process; it is used metaphorically of spiritually feeding upon Christ

We have seen that Jesus was indeed who He claimed to be. This is where our faith must come in. When the Eunuch asked why he couldn't be baptized in Acts 8, Philip tells him

Acts 8:36-37

22

36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" **37** And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

The Eunuch proclaimed his belief that Jesus was just exactly who He claimed to be. Do we? Jesus claimed to be;

- 23** 1. Eternal, before Abraham
- 24** 2. As God, I Am
- 25** 3. Sent from God
- 26** 4. Speaks the truth
- 27** 5. Bread of Life

Since Jesus has proven to be all that He claimed to be, it makes sense to look at the other things that the scriptures claim He is, because He is everything to man, and our salvation depends on whether we choose to believe that He is...

- 28** 6. The light of the world **(John 8:12).**
- 29** 7. The door **(John 10:7,9).**
- 30** 8. The good shepherd **(John 10:11,14).**
- 31** 9. The resurrection and the life. **(John 11:25)**
- 32** 10. The way, the truth and the life **(John 14:6).**
- 33** 11. The true vine **(John 15:5).**