

## Who did the Jews think Jesus was?

Didn't we say all along that you were possessed by a demon?"

John 8:48

The people said, "Now we know you are possessed by a demon.

John 8:52

### C.S. Lewis

" 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must never say. A man who is merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with a man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell." "You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

### M. Scott Peck, the author who wrote *The Road Less Traveled*

"... I was absolutely thunderstruck by the extraordinary reality of the man I found in the Gospels. I discovered a man ... constantly frustrated. [It] leaps out of virtually every page. He's continually saying to people, 'What do I have to say to you? How many times do I have to say it? What do I have to do to get through to you?' ... I had assumed a Jesus ... with a sweet unending smile on His face, patting little children on the head, just strolling the earth ... unflappable ... But the Jesus of the Gospels ... is the best-kept secret of Christianity ..."

**Do you know what?** In his time Jesus made you pick a side.  
**Jesus is saying in John 8, "Crown me or kill me."**

## Is Jesus your ultimate reality?

"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."  
John 8:31,32

### What does that mean? a life pattern of obedience to the LORD.

A true believer is marked by perseverance, by endurance. His faith does not fail.

It means to be in a true, saving union with Christ. How do you know that's a reality? Because you know His Word and you are lovingly and eagerly obedient to it. Not perfect. You fail. You sin. You stumble, but you hate the sin and you hate the stumbling. You're motivated by love to endure.

Dan Wilvers- December 17th, 2017 Part 3

The great  
**GIFT**  
of getting to  
know Jesus



a series from the book of John

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

**Crown Him or Kill him**

**John 8:31-36, 51-59**

"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup>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?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

<sup>51</sup>"I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." <sup>52</sup>At this the Jews exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. <sup>53</sup>Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

<sup>54</sup>Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. <sup>55</sup>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 keep his word. <sup>56</sup>Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

<sup>57</sup>"You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" <sup>58</sup>"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" <sup>59</sup>At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

*This is God's Word*

## Who does Jesus think He is?

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." John 8:31

### Jesus makes two astounding claims to his audience.

#### Claim 1-I can give you a free relationship with the Father.

(One based on intimacy and security, whereas your supposed relationship is based on performance, compulsion and fear.)

"...you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

"Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever." John 8:35

#### Claim 2-I alone can give you an eternal life.

"I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." John 8:51

You can see why they start to ask, "Who do you think you are?"  
**Jesus gives them a twofold answer that is over the top.**

#### 1. I was alive when Abraham was alive.

Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." John 8:56

And they heard it as such, because they respond, ...<sup>57</sup> "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" John 8:57

#### 2. I am God and maker of Abraham

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was, I am!" John 8:58

His audience knew immediately what he was claiming:

At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds. John 8:59

## There has never been a more profound revelation of who God is than the name *I am*.

God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites 'I am has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:14

"I AM THAT I AM," the self determining name. The name of the creator God. "I am... uncaused. I am.. self-existent."

### God is saying, "I am, simply because I am."

Up until the moment of Exodus 3, the Hebrew name Elohim, the generic word for God was used.

Hebrew scribes who copied scriptures for centuries purposefully left off the vowels of God's name so all that they would record were the consonants.

### YHWH

(Known as the Tetragrammaton)

The consensus among scholars is that the historical vocalization of the Tetragrammaton is most likely **Yahweh**. Though for years people thought the name of God was **Jehovah**.

The mix up in the transliteration was due to the scribes, again purposefully, attaching the wrong vowels; the vowels for *Adonai* (Lord or Master), to the side notes of YHWH on their copies. The *Adonai* vowels added to the tetragrammaton YHWH would spell Jehovah. They did this so no one would actually use the real name of God, YAHWEH, in their worship time.

### Apostle Paul wrote of Jesus:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Colossians 1:15-17