

John 8:48-59

If Christ be anything, He must be everything!

Introduction

We all know the story of how the Grinch stole Christmas...

There's this mythical creature living in a cave **on top** of Whoville – and **he doesn't like** the joy that he hears going down in the town...

And so he comes up with a plan to steal Christmas!

The Grinch is **going to steal** all of the objects related to the joy of Christmas day!

And so he goes into one house and sneaks down the chimney:

And the Grinch grabbed the tree, and he started to shove,
 When he heard a small sound like the coo of a dove.
 He turned around fast, and he saw a small Who!
 Little Cindy-Lou Who, who **was not more** than two.
 The Grinch had been caught by this tiny Who daughter,
 Who'd got out of bed for a cup of cold water.
 She stared at the Grinch and said, "Santy Claus, why,
 Why are you taking our Christmas tree? WHY?
 But, you know, that old Grinch was so smart and so slick,
 He thought up a lie, and he thought it up quick!
 Why, my sweet little tot, the fake Santy Claus lied,
 There's a light on this tree that won't light on one side.
 So I'm taking it home to my workshop, my dear.
 I'll fix it up there. Then I'll bring it back here.
 And his fib fooled the child. Then he patted her head,
 And he got her a drink, and he sent her to bed.
 And when Cindy Lou Who went to bed with her cup,

He went to the chimney and stuffed the tree up!
Then the last thing he took Was the log for their fire!
Then he went up the chimney, himself, the old liar.
On their walls he left nothing but hooks and some wire.

It was quarter past dawn... All the Whos, still a-bed,
All the Whos, still a-snooze when he packed up his sled,
And he packed up their presents! The ribbons! The wrappings! The tags! The tinsel! The trimmings!

The trappings!
Three thousand feet up! On the side of Mt. Crumpit,
He rode with his load to the tiptop to dump it!
Pooh-pooh to the Whos he was grinchishly humming.
They're finding out now that no Christmas is coming!
They're just waking up! I know just what they'll do!
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
Then the Whos down in Whoville will all cry Boo Hoo!
That's a noise, grinned the Grinch, That I simply MUST hear!
So he paused. And the Grinch put his hand to his ear.
And he did hear a sound coming over the snow.
It started in low. Then it started to grow.
But the sound wasn't sad! Why, this sound sounded merry!
It couldn't be so! But it WAS VERY!
He stared down at Whoville! The Grinch popped his eyes!
Then he shook! What he saw was a shocking surprise!
Every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small,
Was singing! Without any presents at all!
He HADN'T stopped Christmas from coming! IT CAME!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!
And the Grinch, with his feet ice-cold in the snow,
Stood puzzling and puzzling: How could it be so?

Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store.

Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!
 And what happened then?
 Well...in Whoville they say,
 That **the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day!**

Christmas for Atheists

So like it did for Mr Scrooge of old...Christmas has become a kind of **conversion** for the selfish – a day in which everyone on the earth **pretends** that they're Christians for just the day!

Giving presents and food – good-cheer and joy!

But as we're learning throughout the gospel of John – being a disciple of Christ is **something much more** than simply giving presents – it's **something much more** than attending church once a week... or even attending church **once a year!**

Sydney Herald

I heard of an article **this week** in the Sydney morning herald that **came out several years ago** about **Church attending for atheists** – and this **article was trying to argue** that even atheists should attend church **at least once a year** because going to church is **just so incredibly boring** – and boredom is the seedbed for creativity!

So welcome bored atheists – we're glad you're here!

But you've come on a **very interesting** Sunday – because we're in a series in John looking at a man called Jesus who made some **pretty audacious claims** regarding Himself!

And the religious Grinches of the day **did NOT like** the joy coming in the hearts of those who heard Jesus' words and believed!

John 8

In fact we remember reading **in verse 30** that many had believed in Jesus' **because of the words** that He had said – but by the end of the chapter **some of those same people** (the ones who professed to believe) are ready to **pick up stones** and kill Him!

And so **I take this to mean** that there were both **believers and unbelievers** standing in the crowd that day – there were both sons of God and sons of the Devil!

And one of the things this sermon (the one that **Jesus preached**) is seeking **to do** is to **push those people** (into one of 2 ways):

1. It's **confirming** believers further in **belief**!
2. And it's **hardening** unbelievers further in **unbelief**!

The hard truth **always divides** believers and unbelievers **X2**

This is because truth is found in a Person!

Truth is found in a Person – the one who claimed to be *the **very way**, the **truth**, and the **life**!*

Who is Jesus?

And so when we come to passages like this in John chapter 8 and we consider the **unparalleled claims** of Jesus – we're talking about **nothing less** than **fundamental loyalties**:

Who are you with – who's team are you on – who are your people? **X2**

Another way we could say that:

Who is Jesus Christ?

Who do you say that Jesus Christ is?

We're told that is **the most important question** anyone could ever ask – Jesus posed that very question to Peter in Matthew chapter 16...

Who is Jesus Christ!

But I actually think there's **an even greater question** going on – because I want you to notice **the way that John** sets up this question here in John 8 – see the question that is posed is **NOT so much** premised around asking *Who do you say that Jesus is* but:

Who does **Jesus** say that Jesus is!

How does God in the bible define according to the Bible?

How does God seek to reveal Himself in the incarnation of His One and only Son!

CH Spurgeon famously said that:

If Christ be anything He must be everything!

And the more that I think about this text here in John 8 the more I believe that **this really is** the heart and the centre of our passage!

Christmas is that time of the year when we are reminded that Jesus Christ **really is everything!**

That He is the King – He is supreme – and He is the One **who has come** in human flesh to save His people from their sin!

Main Point

And so the main that I want us to see as we come to this **last instalment** of John chapter 8 here this morning are those words of Spurgeon:

If Christ be anything He must be everything!

John 8

3 things that I want us to notice about **the exceedingly great goodness** of Jesus Christ:

Number 1 – notice:

*His exceedingly great **grace** given to sinners (verses 48-51)*

Now we get this from the fact that in the previous section Jesus has consistently been demonstrating **His true & eternal identity!**

He has already explained that He is the light of the world – the Son of God – and the great I AM!

Samaritans

And they refuse to accept His claims – and they respond to Him in verse 48:

Are we not right in saying that you're a Samaritan and have a demon?

NOT exactly **the most subtle** attempt to attack and discredit the claims of Jesus!

One commentator says:

Much like Satan himself, these sons of darkness question Jesus' loyalty to God, his personal identity, and his testimony concerning Abraham...

In short, these grand inquisitors play the role of the adversary. And **in so doing** prove their character and force His hand!

And in fact **this whole section** is laid out with 3 questions by the Jews – and 3 answers by Jesus!

And so the first question they ask Him is this:

Are we not right in saying that you're a Samaritan and have a demon?

I don't think there was a more offensive question to ask a Jew than these 2 things!

Now the Samaritans we remember were those **half-blood Jews** – they had intermingled their **religion & race** with the Pagan nations...

They were famous for repudiating the temple in Jerusalem – and they had built a rival temple on the top of Mount Gerizim!

And demons of course were famously known to be God's enemies!

Moreover, since the Samaritans **did not rightly** observe the law of Moses; such a person was seen to be an **apostate** in the Jewish religion!

Now the irony of course is that Jesus has **just called** these men **sons and servants** of the Devil – that these men **were the ones** living in darkness – and that they were **NOT** the true seed of Abraham!

And so **here they are** – returning serve and calling Jesus a demon-possessed Samaritan **all because** He did NOT accept their claims of being sons of Abraham!

And this really does go to show us **just how blind** & religious unconverted people can be!

They think **up is down** and **down is up** – **light is dark** and **dark is light**!

And it's basically what Isaiah speaks of in Isaiah chapter 5!

They can **no longer claim** to have any grip on objective reality –because their hearts and minds have been **given over** to their sin!

Jesus' response

And so one would **begin to think** that **this kind of behaviour** was the **absolute end** for these Jewish men – I mean they have just called the Son of God demon-possessed and NOT a true Jew!

And yet here we see this **exceedingly great grace & mercy** being extended to them in **their hatred**!

Verse 49 Jesus says:

*I do not have a demon, but on the contrary, I honour my heavenly Father and you dishonour me, moreover I do not seek my own glory; but there is one who **does seek it** and one who judges...*

So Jesus was simply **delivering the message** that His heavenly Father had given Him to speak...

Which is hardly something a demon possessed person **would ever seek to do!**

Judgement

Moreover, Jesus says:

*I'm **NOT the one** who glorifies myself – because I have a heavenly Father who **passionately seeks** the glory that I have!*

Because I and the Father are one!

And so **if you array yourself against me** and my identity **says Jesus** – then you will face His immense **judgment** and His immense **wrath!**

Grace

And so He speaks the truth in love to them – but then immediately goes to **extending grace** to them – verse 51:

Truly I tell you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death...

Notice:

There's a **condition** – and a **promise** (being extended here) X2

The condition is:

If anyone keeps my word!

Keeping the word in John simply means **believing!**

Standing in Christ!

Holding to Christ!

Believing His Word and **living it out** in a way that **evidences** true and saving faith!

The book of James chapter 2 says: *we're saved **by faith alone** but saving faith is **never alone!***

Jesus says that our faith **will always accompany** good works when we believe in Him!

Promise

But then **notice the promise** that is also attached:

*Whosoever believes in Jesus **will never see death!***

Death we are told is the **great enemy** of the soul (1st Corinthians 15:26) – it is **the end result** of the wages of sin (Romans 6:23) – and death is said to be **the last enemy** defeated by Christ **in the triumph of the gospel!**

And yet here we see that Jesus says:

*If anyone keeps His word, he will never **see death...***

What does Jesus mean:

They will never see death!

Well, He certainly **doesn't mean** that they will never **physically** die in this life – even Jesus the sinless Son of God had to die a sacrificial & substitutionary death on the cross for our sins!

So it **doesn't mean** that they'll never die!

Nor do I think He means that they will never **feel the effects** of death!

Jesus was **NOT really a fan** of the prosperity gospel that is preached in many pulpits today!

Rather what I think He means here is that **Jesus was simply talking about the second death** of God's divine judgment – the second death of God's divine anger!

That although Christians **will die physically** in this life – they will never die **spiritually** when found to be in Jesus Christ!

Jesus says something **very similar** to this when He points to Lazarus in John chapter 11:

*I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, **though he dies**, yet shall he live!*

So the promise is NOT that we will never die – the promise is that we will live **when we die!**

So because Jesus has **fully & finally** paid for all of our sins on the cross – those who believe in Him will never see the **second** death promised in the book of Revelation – the **sting of death** that the unbeliever feels will **never be felt** by the true & abiding Christian who obeys the word of God!

The Gospel

Jesus refuses to accept this weak **easy-believism** that does NOT **deal with or touch** the deepest parts of their darkened minds!

So Jesus follows the pattern of the Gospel by giving them **the bad news first** in order to present them **the good news of His grace!**

That **each and every one of us** here this morning are hopelessly lost without Christ!

We are all sinful, we are all wicked, we are all bad people!

Each and every one of us **deserve nothing less** than the full weight of a holy God!

And God being just, right, and holy has the divine right to **punish sin in hell** for all eternity!

Christ

But see the Good News of the Gospel declares to us that although we are all sinful – Jesus is sinless!

And Jesus Christ the second Person of the Trinity **has come into the world** as the light & life of men!

And He has come **in the likeness of sinful flesh in order to** condemn our sin **in the flesh!**

And Jesus lived the perfect and sinless life **we could never live** – and He died the death that we could never die – **satisfying that eternal wrath** that our sins deserve!

Response

God then raises Him from the dead 3 days later, vindicating the claims that Jesus is the One & only Son of the Father full of grace and truth!

And now God calls **all men everywhere** to repent – to turn from their sin and trust in the finished work of Jesus **Christ alone** – **so that** the wrath **that we deserve** – is justly poured out upon the Son setting us free from our sins!

Christmas is the good news that Jesus Christ has come into the world to save sinners from their sin – and this is:

*The **exceedingly great grace** of Jesus being extended to these men!*

Further Unbelief

Second – **NOT only** His exceedingly great **grace** – but also:

*His **exceedingly great salvation** (52-55)*

And this salvation is **exceedingly great** because **it's secured by Jesus** in His works – and because it's **Trinitarian in nature!**

So verse 52 (after Jesus claims that those who believe in Him **will never see death**) the Jews respond:

*Now we know that you have a demon. Because Abraham died and so did the prophets. But you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham who died? And the prophets died. **Who do you claim yourself to be?***

Authority

So this is now **the second question** and it's an amazing question to ask isn't it – after everything **He has already shown to them:**

- In the preaching of His word!
- In the walking on the waves!
- In the healing of the sick!
- In the raising of the dead!
- In the feeding of the crowds!
- And **NOT to mention** the Father's voice BOOMING DOWN FROM HEAVEN!

I mean **everything Jesus has done** up until this point in the gospel has revealed to them His **truest identity** as the Son of God!!!

And yet **they** have the **audacity & hutzpah** to question who He is!

And I don't even know what Hutzpah is...I just hear Craig say it a lot!

The truth

And I think this demonstrates for us several things that **I've said here before** but it bears repeating – number 1:

It is always **good, right, and godly** for Christians to divide against the world when Jesus' identity is on the line!

Sometimes we mistakenly think that Christianity automatically equals niceness – when in reality Christianity **should purvey** the reality and beauty of the truth!

And when the identity of Jesus **and His divine glory** is wading on the line – Christians **in haste** must boldly proclaim **light into darkness!**

Unbelieving Minds

Second these verses demonstrate that:

The **unbelieving mind** will **always be hostile** and angry toward the authority of Jesus!

EVERY SINGLE TIME!

That no matter **how hard we try to soften** the claims of the gospel – no matter how hard we try to accommodate to the world's customs – the unbelieving mind will always have a problem with **Christ as King!**

And yet this is what's so **amazingly precious** yet **altogether ironic** about the time of Christmas – when you realize that **every song we sing** at Christmas proclaims to the world the **supremacy & authority** of Jesus as the King:

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found.*

That's a glorious song that speaks of Christ as King **coming to reverse the curse** of Genesis chapter 3 – Jesus has NOT left this world to its own devices but is coming to save the world – and reconcile the world to Himself!

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?*

ANSWER:

*This, this is Christ, **the King**,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Christmas is that time when we are reminded that the King of kings has come into the world **to save the world** through the sovereign work of the Gospel!

And **this reign** of the King will **always produce** hatred in those who reject Him – **but praise** in those who adore Him!

Intra-Trinitarian

And then the last thing I think we need to see is the **intra-Trinitarian relationship** that is grounding this **authority** of Jesus as the King – notice what He says in verse 54:

If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. But my Father—about whom you say, ‘He is our God’— He is the one who glorifies me. ⁵⁵ And you do not know Him, but I know Him. And if I were to say I don’t know Him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know Him, and I keep His word...

So the obedience Jesus shows **to the Father** secures the glory that He has **with the father!**

And this dispels any notion that the Jews had about **Jesus** being a **self-promoting King** – remember back in verse 28 that Jesus had told them:

When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He!

And these Jews **had wrongly assumed** that because Jesus would be *lifted up* that He was trying to seek His own glory – but we know that **being lifted up** in John means that **He would be sacrificed** on a cross – and that would be **the Father’s will** – and that would be **the Son’s obedience!**

This is what Jesus means when He says that:

The Father seeks the Son's glory!

Because every other King in Jesus' day was a self-promoting King!

But Jesus says that there's this **beautiful mystery of the Trinity** where He **does NOT need** to seek His own glory because:

The Father glorifies the Son – and the Son glorifies the father through His obedience **in going to the cross!**

Communal Salvation

And here's where the benefits of this intra-Trinitarian relationship **comes into play for us** – because the Son's obedience to the Father **is the basis** for our salvation in Christ!

But second this intra-Trinitarian relationship **also means** when God saves a sinner He **invites them into this loving & Trinitarian** relationship of **community & belonging** in Christ!

So that salvation is NOT just some **distant cosmic transaction** where God simply **forgives our sins** and we continue on in life (*thank goodness we escaped the flames of hell*) – but rather:

This salvation is **deeply personal** and highly communal!

One in which **we are invited in** to share in the greatest relationship of Trinitarian joy a soul can ever know!

And this (by the way) is why when God saves a sinner – He saves them into a **community of believers** that can **care for and nurture** the faith of a Saint into deeper and deeper wells of salvation!

This is why we when we baptise a person in Christ:

1. We baptise them **before the Church community!**

And

2. In the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit!

Because **it's an echo** of the Trinitarian relationship into which we have now been saved into!

So Salvation itself is **highly Trinitarian – deeply relational – and intensely personal!**

Herman Bavinck the 19th century Reformed Theologian puts it like this:

*In the doctrine of the Trinity we feel the heartbeat of God's entire revelation...and the heartbeat for the redemption of humanity. Though foreshadowed in the Old Testament Scriptures, it comes to light **fully in Jesus Christ**. Religion can be satisfied with nothing less than God Himself. And now in Christ **God Himself** has come to us, and the Spirit communicates His essence to us...*

So friends this is the **exceedingly great salvation** to which Jesus now attests to these men!

Jesus is inviting them into **NOT just** salvation from the darkness – but salvation **into a community of light!**

A community of joy!

And of greatest significance!

Abraham

And it's a relationship that has been **deeply enjoyed** by **every single person** past, present, and future who comes to faith in Christ!

A salvation which the **Old Testament** Scriptures **foreshadowed** – and the New Testament Scriptures **fulfill!**

Which is why Jesus **immediately goes back to** Abraham's in verse 56 to demonstrate this fact!

And this leads us into our **third and final** point this morning:

His exceedingly great glory

In verse 56 Jesus **proceeds to answer** the question:

Are you greater than our father Abraham?

The answer is yes and Jesus demonstrates this in **2 distinct ways**:

Number one Jesus says:

I am the very hope of Abraham's faith – The one to which Abraham rejoiced and longed to see!

Verse 56:

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad...

So scholars have **debated & ransacked** the Scriptures to figure out where exactly Jesus was referring to:

- Some have assumed Genesis chapter 18 when Abraham is visited by 3 distinct men in his tent **one of whom** is described as the LORD-God Himself; and so many scholars have assumed that this was a kind of **pre-incarnate Christ**, visiting Abraham and promising him a son!

And this was something Abraham greatly rejoiced to see!

- Others suggest Genesis 15 where Abraham looks out **to the stars at night** and is promised to be a father of many nations having decedents as numerous as the stars – and Paul picks up on this text in **Galatians 3** and says that this promise was referencing **the seed of Abraham** which is Christ!

- Or in Genesis 22 when Abraham takes **Isaac** up to the top of Mount Moriah to sacrifice him to the LORD – and the LORD spares **Isaac his son** and provides *a ram for him from the thicket* to kill and to sacrifice instead of – and this of course is picturing Jesus' death **on the cross for our sins!**

And so scholars debate which of these events Jesus was referring to – I actually think it's in par **all of these** – that:

He is the **full embodiment** and picture of **everything promised** in Abraham's day!

Jesus fulfills **every one of the promises** given to Abraham in the book of Genesis!

I AM

But then notice what else He says – Jesus says:

He is **NOT merely the hope** of Abraham's faith – that He did NOT merely exist before Abraham existed – but Jesus makes Himself out to be **the very God** to which Abraham **rejoiced!** – the very **one** to which Abraham worshipped – verse 57 the Jews responded to Jesus:

You aren't even fifty years old yet, and you've seen Abraham? But Jesus said to them, Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I AM X2

Jesus was **NOT only** putting Himself at the centre of Abraham's story – He was placing Himself at the centre of everyone's eternal destiny...

And He was calling Himself equal with Yahweh Himself – because Jesus is the very glory and image of God the Father!

Jesus was putting Himself at the centre of Israel's history – and the Jews **knew the implications of what He was saying to them** – and so:

They picked up stones to stone Him but Jesus hid Himself and walked out of the temple!

And the chapter ends with this gloomy ending where ***the glory of the LORD*** is leaving the temple!

There is this **symbolism** going on where Ezekiel's vision of the glory is now leaving the temple of God!

But instead of it being God's **transcendent glory** of the Old Testament – it's God's incarnate glory of the one and only Son!

God's glory wrapped up in flesh!

This was the very Person and work of God's only Son leaving the temple and in so doing **leaving them in their sin!**

Saint Augustine said many years ago:

*Jesus may flee from stones in the temple, but woe to those from **whose hearts of stone** God Himself flees...*

Christmas Warning

See it's a warning to us **this Christmas** friends that if **we do NOT see** and adore Christ the King for who He truly is:

Then **we miss** the meaning of Christmas and the joy being expressed through the Triune life of God!

So let me ask you friends:

Have you seen Him?

Do you know Him?

Do you worship Him?

Is He everything to you?

Is He the reason you gather?

Is He the reason you worship?

Is He at the centre of everything you do and say on Christmas Day?

Because the true, living, and eternal God of Abraham became a creature for us – and He lowered Himself to be conceived in the womb of a virgin – to grow up as a real boy – to learn obedience through what He suffered (Hebrews 5:8) – and to fulfill the righteous requirements of His own Law – so that we could be set free from the reality of our sin – by dying on a cross and rising again – and this He did in order to reconcile **His enemies** to Himself!

Those who had spurned the name of Christ – those living in darkness – those whose joy had been stolen away by their sin, arrogance, and pride!

James White

Let me finish here today with the words of James White who wrote an article **years ago** to the **Muslims in Isis** who beheaded those 21 Coptic Christians in 2015 – and in a blog post on his website James White responds and he says:

To my Muslim readers:

*We Christians worship **only one God**, and we do not worship the cross. But we glory in what God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit did on that cross. All of time before the cross looked forward to it—and all of time will forever look back to it. It is the centre point of time. There the God-Man gave Himself utterly, freely, voluntarily, becoming sin in the place of every man, woman and child who would ever put their faith and trust in Him as their sin-bearer, and as their Saviour. God joined His people to the Messiah there on the cross, which is why He had to be so much more than a mere prophet. He bore in Himself the wrath justly due to their sin, so that they could have forgiveness. How can we not, I ask you, Muslim friend, glory in the cross? For there the God of Abraham fulfilled what He had pictured on the mountain when Abraham offered his unique son, so long ago. God gave us life at the cross, and we rejoice. And our deepest desire is that you, too, come to know that life, through Him who gave Himself so freely there...*

Friends this is why we celebrate the coming of Christ at Christmas!

Because God our King **became flesh for us** – He became flesh **in order that** we might know the hope of Abraham – the joy of the angels – the gladness of the shepherds – the humility of Simeon – the worship of the Magi – and the peace of Christ!

For if Christ must be anything this Christmas season – He must be everything **and everything in God!**

Prayer

Our Lord and our God we thankyou! We thank you for the wonderful – all encompassing truth and reality of Christ the Lord the new-born King!

For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray

From God our Heavenly Father
A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by Name.

Father may that be the cry of our hearts this Christmas that Jesus Christ the King truly is everything!

Amen!

John 8:48-59

Discussion Questions

[Read John 8:48-59]

Main Point: *If Christ be anything, He must be everything!*

Q1. How would you summarise all of John 8? – What is the main point of verses 48-59?

Q2. [Read verse 48]. Why did the Jews pick these 2 insults? – What would they have meant in a Jewish mind? – How does Jesus respond to these claims? **[See verses 49-50].** – What does Jesus' teaching reveal about the Father and Son?

Q3. [Read verse 51]. What does it mean that *if anyone keeps Jesus' word*? – What is the promise being attached to this? – What does it mean that they will never see death? – How are Abraham and the prophets' deaths used as evidence against Jesus? How does Jesus counter this?

Q4. How does Abraham see Jesus' day? **[See verse 56].** – How are the Jews incorrect in their understanding of Abraham as their father, and God as their father?

Q5. What does the shift from their *belief* (verse 31) to their *words and actions* in verses 48-59 reveal about the crowd? – What do we learn about ourselves? – How ought we to respond to Jesus?