Jesus and the Fight

John 8:33-45

Introduction:

In verse 30, “many believed in Him” – “ἐπίστευσαν εἰς αὐτόν. (Same construction as 3:16) In verse 31, “Jesus said to those who believed in Him” -- πεπιστευκότας αὐτῷ.” They are believers and have eternal life.

Many people do not distinguish between salvation and discipleship.

Salvation is FREE – Discipleship is COSTLY.

So, Jesus said to them, “now that you have your free salvation and life which cannot be taken away, if you want to be my disciples, STAY IN THE WORD!”

For them, to “stay in His word” meant to follow Him around and listen to His teaching. Then they could meditate on His words and do as He had taught.

I. The Jews’ Claim – 8:33-45

A. Their Bragging – 8:33

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“They answered Him, ﻿﻿“We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, ‘You will be made free’?”

“They answered Him” -- Who is “they”?

* “they” are not those believers of vv.30-31.
* They are the Jews who have been referred to in verses 13,19,22,25,27, these believers would not be speaking against Him (πρὸς αὐτόν.)
* The believers in vv.30-31do not speak, they are spoken about.
* The antecedent to “they” is the group that have been fighting Him all along.

These Jewish unbelievers are saying,

1. We are Abraham’s seed -- Right! They were, physically.

Different kinds of Abraham’s seed

1. Physical not Spiritual Seed -- Unbelieving Jews

2. Physical and Spiritual Seed -- Believing Jews

3. Spiritual not Physical Seed -- Believing Gentile

4. Neither Physical nor Spiritual seed -- Unbelieving Gentiles

2. We have never been in bondage – Wrong!

They were slaves for 450 years to Egypt, and presently to Romans. But Jesus has another kind of bondage in mind.

B. Their Burden – 8:34-36

“Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, ﻿﻿whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ﻿And ﻿﻿a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ﻿﻿﻿Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

They were slaves to sin, as all mankind is. The difference between a slave and a son:

* Son abides in the house forever. The slave does not abide forever.
* The Son will make you, (slaves), free forever. But you have to admit that you are slaves first.

C. Their Blight – 8:37-41a

(They were blind)

1. Partly Correct – 8:37

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“I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, but ﻿﻿you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.”

 They were physically Abraham’s seed. But, that makes their attitude all the more horrendous. They are trying to kill the seed that God had promised to Abraham.

2. Partly Corrected – 8:38-41a

﻿﻿“I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have ﻿﻿seen with your father.” They answered and said to Him, ﻿﻿“Abraham is our father.”

Wrong! -- You don’t do the works of Abraham.

“Jesus said to them, ﻿﻿“If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham.” (8:39)

What did Abraham do when God showed up at his place? Gen. 18:1-15 He invited them to dinner! He had Sarah make some cakes from meal. A servant killed and cooked a calf. He stood by them under the tree while they ate. One of them was none other than the Pre-Incarnate Christ. Now they are trying to kill Him.

“But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth ﻿﻿which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father.” (8:40-41a)

Later, He will identify their father as the devil.

D. Their Blasphemy – 8:41b-43

1. Their Accusation – 8:41b

“Then they said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; ﻿﻿we have one Father—God.”

“not born of fornication” may be a slam against Jesus’ birth. The records were in the temple and they had access to them. If this were a slur against His birth, it would not be hard to learn of Mary’s situation.(Matt.1and Luke1) All they needed to do is to go to Galilee and ask around from those who were there 30 years ago.

But, they seem to be trying to evade Jesus’ point that they were not living like their “father” Abraham. So they claim only one Father, God.

They played what they saw as the “trump” card. Using the name “Abraham” didn’t work, so now they will use the word “God.” -- Wrong Again!

2. Their Accountability – 8:42-43

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“Jesus said to them, ﻿﻿“If God were your Father, you would love Me, for ﻿﻿I proceeded forth and came from God; ﻿﻿nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.”

Question: Why were they not able to listen?

John 7:17

﻿“﻿﻿If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether* I speak on My own *authority.*”

They didn’t get that way by themselves; someone was deceiving them – their father, the devil.

E. Their Boss – 8:44-45

1. The Truth is Exposed by Jesus – 8:44a

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“You are of *your* father the devil,”

No one is a child of God until he believes on Jesus,

John 1:12

 “But ﻿﻿as many as received Him, to them He gave the ﻿﻿right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: You are God’s creation, but not his child.”

2. The Truth is Expanded – 8:44b-c

“and the ﻿﻿desires of your father you want to ﻿﻿do.”

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a.He is a Murderer – 8:44b

“was a murderer from the beginning,”

All death can be laid at his doorstep. From the first murder – “Cain killed Abel.” To the present time are all the devil’s doing, with willing partners. He would love to add Jesus to the list.

Jesus will die, (Jesus was directing events from the cross.) but it will be Satan’s defeat – not his victory.

b. He is a Liar – 8:44c

“He and ﻿﻿does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources,* for he is a liar and the father of it.”

The Devil’s first lie on earth was, “you shall not surely die.”

He is the father of every lie that follows from the mouth of His children and sometimes from God’s children. (Ananias and Sapphira a good case in point). But Peter said, “Ananias, why has ﻿﻿Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit…” (Acts 5)

1. The Truth Explained – 8:45

“But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.”

Jesus’ truth does not fit their belief system. So they can’t and won’t listen to Him.

Conclusion: