Jesus Answers the Fighters

John 8:46-59

I. His Sinlessness – 8:46-50

A. His Challenge – 8:46-47

1. The Transparency of His Walk – 8:46a

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“Which of you convicts Me of sin?”

This was a real challenge. They could, and maybe did, maybe already had, done some investigation of His life. There were no takers. Total silence!

His life was an open book -- “Friend, how would you feel, if our heart were made with a window on each side.” (Blackwood quartet)

2. The Trustworthiness of His Word – 8:46b-47

a. Jesus asks a question – 8:46b

“And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?”

﻿Jesus asks and answers a question, “if I tell the truth” Since I tell the truth,

The “if” clause is assumed true. Since they could not accuse Him of any sin. Obviously they don’t believe that He is lying to them. Why do you not believe me?

b. Jesus answers His own question – 8:47

“He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

He Forms a Syllogism:

Major premise:﻿ He who is of God hears God’s words;

Minor premise: You do not hear [God’s Word.]

Conclusion: You are not of God.

B. Their Charge – 8:48-50

“Then the Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and ﻿﻿have a demon?”

Question: What do you do when you can’t out-argue someone?

Answer: You attack His person- call Him names -- Samaritan – a half-Jew/half Gentile. Demon-possessed–not totally human.

C. His Counter – 8:49-50

1. Jesus ignored the “Samaritan” accusation.

Jesus did not hate the Samaritans as the Jews did so that is not considered an insult.

2. He Denied the Demon Statement

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“Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon;”

They are the ones who follow the prince of demons.

3. He affirms His Purpose for being there

Then He goes on to why He is there in the first place.

“but I honor My Father, and ﻿﻿you dishonor Me”

In dishonoring Him they dishonor God,

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“And ﻿﻿I do not seek My *own* glory; there is One who seeks and judges.”

II. His Eternal Sonship – 8:51-59

A. Triumphant Over the Tomb – 8:51-55

﻿”Most assuredly, I say to you, ﻿﻿if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”

1. Their Terrible Disbelief – 8:52a

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“Then the Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You ﻿﻿have a demon! ﻿﻿Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.”

2. Their Total Disbelief – 8:52b-55

a. Their Argument – 8:52b-53

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“Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. ﻿﻿Who do You make Yourself out to be?”

b. His Answer – 8:54-55

1). God’s Inerrancy – 8:54a-b

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“Jesus answered, ﻿﻿“If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. ﻿﻿It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is ﻿﻿your God.”

2). Their Ignorance – 8:54c – 55a

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“Yet ﻿﻿you have not known Him,”

3). His Integrity – 8:55b

“but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and ﻿﻿keep His word.”

B. Transcendent over all time – 8:56-59

1. Rejoicing of the Hebrew patriarch – 8:56

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“Your father Abraham ﻿﻿rejoiced to see My day, ﻿﻿and he saw *it* and was glad.”

2. Reaction of the Hebrew people – 8:57

“Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”

3. Revelation of the Hebrew prophet – 8:58-59

a. Disclosure of His Deity – 8:58

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“Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, ﻿﻿before Abraham was, ﻿﻿I AM.”

b. Denial of His Deity – 8:59a

“Then ﻿﻿they took up stones to throw at Him;”

c. Demonstration of His Deity – 8:59b

“but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, ﻿﻿going ﻿﻿through the midst of them, and so passed by.”