

Study Guide for May 17th, 2009. John 8:48-59 Jesus: The Great I AM!

Introduction: The discourse concludes with a series of interchanges between Jesus and his Jewish opponents. Reread John 8:12-47 to remind yourself of how the argument has developed to this point. Highlight the assertions and promises Jesus makes for those who are truly his disciples. While defending himself, Jesus also invites us to receive true life.

I. The Promise of Life: John 8:48-51

- A. What accusations do the Jewish leaders level against Jesus? Why these charges?
- B. Which charge does Jesus refute? (see also John. 7:20 & 10:20-21)
- C. What does Jesus claim he is **not** seeking? Who is seeking this for Jesus?
- D. Write out vs. 51 and meditate on this tremendous promise.
 - 1) What do you think it means to **keep my (Jesus') word**?
 - 2) How does this statement wrap up Jesus response to the initial charge?
 - 3) Compare John 8:51 with John 5:24; 6: 40, 47, 63, 68-69; & 11:25-26
 - 4) As possessors of eternal life, what should be our view of physical death?

II. The Person who brings Joy: John 8:52-56

- A. What assumption is revealed in the statement by which the Jews respond (vs. 52)?
- B. What eventually happened to Abraham and the prophets? How is vs. 53 ironic?
- C. Who ultimately is concerned for Jesus' glory? How will this eventually be seen?
- D. How does Jesus differentiate his relation with God versus the Jews relation to him?
- E. How did Abraham, whom the Jews claim as their father, anticipate Jesus' day?
- F. Can you say that all your hopes and joys will find ultimate fulfillment in Christ?

III. The Proclamation of God Incarnate: John 8:57-59

- A. What words would you use to describe the reaction of the Jews here?
- B. What is Jesus asserting when he states, "Before Abraham was born, I am!"
- C. Note how the phrase "I am" is used in the following passages.
 - 1) Ex. 3:14:
 - 2) Ps. 90:1-2:
 - 3) Is. 43:10-13:
- D. How do the Jews react to this statement of Jesus? What does Jesus do?