



WEEK TEN HANDOUT – The Son of God Despised

BAND OF BROTHERS 2020

Key Verse: *Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”
So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.*

– John 8:31-32 ESV

- **A growing animosity** – John 8:36-59
 - Jesus knew the Jewish religious leaders were out to kill Him
 - He was fully aware of their plan

*“I know that you are offspring of Abraham; **yet you seek to kill me** because my word finds no place in you.”* – John 8:37 ESV

- There is no love lost between Jesus and Pharisees
- Their hatred for Him is increasing steadily
- And it’s because of inflammatory statements like this:

*“I am going away, and you will seek me, and **you will die in your sin**. Where I am going, you cannot come.”* – John 8:21 ESV

*“**You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.**”* – John 9:23-24 ESV

- None of this is PC-correct
- He isn’t out to win friends or influence enemies
- He is the **Word** of God declaring the **truth** of God
- He is the **Light** illuminating the **darkness**
- And the battle is about to intensify

*“If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, but **now you seek to kill me**, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. **This is not what Abraham did.**” – John 8:39-40 ESV*

- Out of step with Abraham
 - Abraham was the patriarch of the Hebrew people
 - He had been called by God and given a promise

*The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. **I will make you into a great nation.** I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.” – Genesis 12:1-2 NLT*

*Then the LORD took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. **That’s how many descendants you will have!**” – Genesis 15:5 NLT*

*And Abram believed the LORD, and **the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.** – Genesis 15:6 NLT*

- God spoke – Abraham believed
- God promised – Abraham trusted in the promise
- In spite of all the circumstances

Abraham and Sarah were both very old by this time, and Sarah was long past the age of having children. – Genesis 18:11 ESV

- A question of paternity

“If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here.” – John 8:42 ESV

- They had questioned Jesus’ paternity

“We were not born of sexual sin...” – vs 41
- Now He returns the favor
- Their behavior was proof of who their real father was

***“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When **he lies**, he speaks out of his own character, for **he is a liar** and the father of lies.”** – John 8:44 ESV*

- Jesus pulls no punches
 - They prefer **death** to **life**
 - They love the **darkness** rather than the **light**

- They listen to **lies** and reject the **truth**
- They are servants of **Satan** rather than **God**

- Life eternal

- They say He is demon-possessed
- But Jesus says He possesses the key to eternal life

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, **he will never see death.**”*
– John 8:51 ESV

- Jesus is claiming to be the source of eternal life
- He is offering them an escape from death
- This is the same offer He made to Nicodemus

*“...so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that **whoever believes in him may have eternal life.**”* – John 3:14-15 ESV

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**”* – John 3:16 ESV

- It was the same thing John the Baptist promised

*“**Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life;** whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”* – John 3:36 ESV

- But Jesus has already warned them of their fate

*“I am going away. You will search for me **but will die in your sin.** You cannot come where I am going.”* – John 8:21 ESV

*“...**unless you believe that I Am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins.**”* – John 8:24 ESV

- A ridiculous offer

- His offer of eternal life was unthinkable
- He was making claims He couldn't back up
- After all, He was just a man

- **A question for the ages**

“Who do you make yourself out to be?” – John 8:53 ESV

- They can't fathom what Jesus is talking about
- They are still stuck on an earthly plane
- All the patriarchs dies, so would Jesus

Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad. – John 8:56 ESV

- God had promised Abraham:
*“All the families of the earth will be blessed through you and **your offspring.**”* – Genesis 12:3 BSB
- Paul would later explain what God had in mind
*Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “**And to your offspring,**” who is **Christ.*** – Galatians 3:16 ESV
- Jesus was the fulfillment of this promise
- The nations would be blessed through Him

*He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.* – John 1:11-13 ESV

- **The great “I am”**

*Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I am.**”* – John 8:58 ESV

- This statement pushed them over the edge
- He was claiming to be the great “I am” – God Himself

*Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “**I am who I am.**” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘**I am has sent me to you.**’”* – Exodus 3:13-14 ESV

- And His claim did not escape them

So they picked up stones to throw at him... John 8:59 ESV

- **A living parable** – John 9:1-41

*As he passed by, he saw a man **blind from birth.*** – John 9:1 ESV

- John placed this story here for a reason
- He is the only gospel author to include it
- It is intended to be a visual illustration – a living parable

*“**I am the light** of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to **walk in darkness,** because you will have **the light that leads to life.**”* – John 8:12 ESV

- This man had been born into a world of darkness
- He was completely sightless and helpless
- As the disciples reveal, his condition was believed to be the result of sin
- He was about to become a visual symbol for humanity

- **A question of sin**

- The focus of the passage is the man's condition and its cause
- The issue has to do with sin and darkness

*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and **came back seeing**. – John 9:5-7 ESV*

- The man was miraculously healed
 - But Jesus didn't **restore** the man's sight
 - He didn't give back to him what he had lost
 - He provided what the man completely lacked
 - It was all in keeping with the Messiah's mission
 - Jesus spoke of this in the synagogue in Nazareth

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see,
that the oppressed will be set free,
and that the time of the Lord's favor has come." – Luke 4:18-19 NLT*

*"The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled **this very day!**" – Luke 4:21 NLT*

- Jesus had come to restore sight to the spiritually blind
- He had come to bring healing to the nations

*"Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—**the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.**" And he added, "God blesses those who do not fall away because of me." – Matthew 11:4-6 NLT*

- But what was the response to this man's healing?
 - His neighbors doubted him
 - People tried to discredit him
 - The Pharisees interrogated him
 - His own parents bailed on him
 - Jesus was accused of violating the Sabbath

- The man was accused of lying about being blind
- What was the man's response?
The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." – John 9:30-32 ESV
- The Pharisees blamed this man's blindness on sin
- But he could see things to which they were blind
- They lacked his spiritual perception
- And they would be judged for it
- **Belief and guilt**
*Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "**Do you believe in the Son of Man?**" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "**Lord, I believe,**" and **he worshiped him.** – John 9:35-38 ESV*
- The formerly blind man believed
- But the sighted men remained blind

*Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, **that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.**" Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "**Are we also blind?**" Jesus said to them, "**If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.**" – John 9:39-41 ESV*

- They had judged themselves
- Their refusal to admit their blindness condemned them
- In refusing to "see" Jesus, they remained in the dark

"Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." – Matthew 9:12 NLT

For Further Thought

- Go back and review all that happened in chapters 8-9. What did Jesus do and say that caused the religious leaders to despise Him?
- Take a look at John 15:18-19 where Jesus tells His disciples they will be hated by the world. How do you think that shows up in our lives today?
- In what ways do you think Christians can suffer from spiritual blindness? What causes it and what can we do to prevent it?