

A. John 8:21-30 – Rejection by the religious crowd grows

1. John 8:21 – *Then He said again to them, “I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come.”* If they died in their sin of unbelief, they would not have the righteousness required for entrance into heaven. In John 16 we observe that God the Holy Spirit will convince the world about the need for this **righteousness**.
2. John 8:22 – *So the Jews were saying, “Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?”* These Jews based their thinking entirely on the **natural**. They refused to grasp the spiritual. When Jesus taught that their righteousness would not get them to heaven, their rebellion kept them in the dark. 1 Corinthians 2:9-16
3. John 8:23 – *And He was saying to them, “You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world .”* In their human logic they were earthly in their thinking. There was a rebellious unwillingness to see and appreciate the **Light** of the world, Jesus Christ. He could give them understanding and true vision, but their callous hearts resisted.
4. John 8:24 – *“ Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins .”* Jesus is the great “I am.” Everyone who refuses to accept by faith that Jesus, as Christ, is **deity** will be eternally separated from God. John 3:36, 1 John 4:1-3
 - a. We have observed how the crowds **denied** that Jesus came from God and that He was God. They said He was from Galilee and that no prophet could arise from there.
 - b. We observed how they were unwilling to **accept** that He was going to a place they could not go. At one point they thought He meant He was going to the Greek-speaking Jews and another time that He was going to kill Himself. In their blindness they did not believe Jesus was the Christ, who came from heaven and would one day return there.
 - c. Jesus made many claims to deity and uniqueness. Sadly, when Jesus made these **claims** the religious leaders only hardened their hearts and refused to see and believe.
 - 1) Jesus claimed deity by multiple uses of “**I am**” statements. John 4:26, 6:20, 35, 48, 51; 8:12, 24
 - 2) Jesus claimed to perform **deeds** identical to those God the Father accomplished. John 5:17-18
 - 3) Jesus claimed deity by calling Himself the **Son** of God. Calling Himself the Son of God was a way of equating Himself with God, as expressed by his opponents in John 5:18. John 5:23, 10:33, 19:7; Philippians 2:6
 - 4) Jesus claimed to be the source and giver of **life** . He claimed to be able to give life just as does God the Father gives life. John 5:21, 28
 - 5) Jesus claimed to have the same authority to **judge** as God the Father. John 5:22
 - 6) Jesus claimed to have been sent directly from **heaven** from the Father. John 6:29, 38, 51, 57, 7:28-29
 - 7) Jesus claimed to be the only one who had **seen** God and the only one who could reveal God to humanity. John 6:46
5. John 8:25a – *So they were saying to Him, “Who are You?”* The Pharisees’ sarcasm as expressed in this statement shows their great **disdain** for Jesus Christ.
 - a. The Pharisees were likely trying to trap Jesus in a blasphemous statement in order to **legalize** His arrest and execution. John 19:7
 - b. Jesus avoided a direct answer. He was exactly who He had **always** been saying He was!
6. John 8:25b – *Jesus said to them, “What have I been saying to you from the beginning ?* In **Greek**, Jesus’ reply could be understood as a question, a statement, or an exclamation; it is hard to know which one it was. Regardless, Jesus said in essence, “I am the one who I have always claimed to be.”
7. John 8:26 – *“I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.”* Jesus stressed that His purpose was to proclaim the message to **humanity** the Father had given Him to give. Jesus faithfully gave us the Father’s message.
 - a. God always desires to communicate with man and Jesus has always been His **best** ambassador. No one knows the mind of the Father like His Son Jesus does.
 - b. Many people believe that God is somehow silent, but that could not be further from the truth. God wanted mankind to know Him so badly He sent His Son on a mission to **explain** the Father to us. Today we have that message in written form in the Bible.

The Gospel of John

8. John 8:27 – *They did not realize that He had been speaking to them about the Father* . Because of their spiritual darkness, the Pharisees didn't understand the **words** Jesus spoke. In their spiritual ineptitude, they failed to see that Jesus was talking to them about His heavenly Father.
9. John 8:28 – *So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me* . Being lifted up referred to Jesus' coming substitutionary **death** on the cross. Jesus told them His purpose would make sense when one day they saw Him crucified. John 3:14-15
10. John 8:29 – *" And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him ."* Even though death on the **cross** was the Father's plan, the Lord Jesus Christ was convinced of the Father's companionship throughout. Jesus assured His hearers He was in perfect harmony with the will of God the Father. Hebrews 10:5-10
11. John 8:30 – *As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.* The active voice, aorist tense of the Greek word PISTEUO, to believe, indicates a punctuated one-time decision to place **faith** in Christ for salvation. God makes salvation uncomplicated and accessible to all, because He desires everyone to be saved. 2 Peter 3:9

B. John 8:31-32 – Encouragement to believers to follow on

1. John 8:31 – *So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine* . Jesus began teaching discipleship to those He **knew** had believed in Him. He wanted them to grow to become all they were meant to be.
 - a. Jesus taught that when a person believed in Him, they instantly became God's **offspring** by being born again through the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had communicated this truth to Nicodemus early in His ministry. John 1:12-13, 3:3-8
 - b. In saving people, the Lord Jesus did not simply want to have newborn babies. He also desired to nourish, discipline, and **mature** every child whom He received. This process is called sanctification or discipleship. Hebrews 12:5-11
 - c. He wanted those who believed in Him to **grow**. He knew how important His word was to their growth. In John 7 some of His disciples had left Him. He knew they would quickly languish and suffer spiritually without His teaching. Progress in their discipleship would cease and that is contrary to God's will for His children. Hebrews 5:11-14
 - d. Just as they needed to know the importance of eating-up the word of God, so do we. Just like back then, if we desire to grow to become a true **disciple** of Christ, it will require a steady diet of God's word. In 1 Peter 2:2 the apostle encouraged us to consume the pure milk of the word.
 - e. Positionally, at salvation you are automatically called a disciple, but conditionally you do not automatically qualify as a true disciple. True discipleship is a **choice** that requires an ongoing walk of faith by means of the word of God.
2. John 8:32 – *"...and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* All believers are delivered from sin's penalty the moment they come to *know the truth*, Jesus Christ. After that, those who daily abide in Christ's word, grow and come to *know the truth* more fully. True disciples of Christ find daily deliverance (freedom) from sin's power via the **truth**.
 - a. Knowing the one who is the truth makes you free from sin's **penalty** at salvation.
 - b. Knowing the teaching of the one who is the truth continues to set you free from sin's **power**. This is called sanctification.