

Episode #1-35 – One Greater Than Abraham

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We have been learning about the way of the fathers. Some believed in Jesus (that He was the Messiah,) but when he pressed them with the truth, they revealed that they hated the Messiah, and want to kill him. The Lord reveals that they are of their father, the devil. John 8:48-59.

A. V.48. The Jews resort to insult. A Samaritan was a half-Jew (II Kings 17:23-33). They had no evidence that He had a demon. He had rightfully accused them, and they childishly accuse Him back.

B. V.49. He denies having a demon. By calling Him illegitimate, they insult His Father.

C. V.50. The Father is the One Who seeks to honor the Son. We should too!

D. V.51. He emphasizes with “truly, truly.” How true, when all except Enoch and Elijah have tasted since Adam’s fall? “Never see death” is a bad translation. Never = Greek “*ou me eis ton aiona*.” We do see death in this world, but we will not see it in relationship to the eon of the kingdom to come.

E. V.52. Now they know He has a demon! They twist His words to “by no means be tasting death for the eon.” Makes it sound like He means in this life, but all taste Adamic death. They could not keep His words, as He said, but changed them.

F. V.53. All honored Abraham and the prophets, yet they are dead. How could He claim this for one who keeps His word? Again, they twisted what He said.

G. V.54. The Lord ignores their argument. The Father honors Him, identified as God. They claim He is their God. The Lord would question this, however.

H. V.55. They lie saying they know God, proved by their not listening to Christ. Many would prove the same thing today.

I. V.56. Abraham, far from being “greater” than the Lord, jumped for joy to see His day! What day is that? Phil. 1:6,10, 2:16.

J. V.57. He spoke as if He saw Abraham do this. He is not yet 50 (actually early 30s.) How then could He have seen Abraham?

K. V.58. He emphasizes “truly, truly.” I AM, not I was. Ex. 3:14, a name for God.

L. V.59. They try to stone Him. He hides in a crowd! Another proof of His truth.

IV. Conclusion: The Lord’s enemies could not believe that He was able to give eonian life to anyone who keeps His word, since this would make Him greater than Abraham. However, the Lord claimed to be greater than Abraham, in fact, to be God Himself, the great I AM. The question for us then is: do we believe Him?