"WHO'S YOUR FATHER?"

(John 8:37-50)

1-5-2025

Introduction: v.37-41

**** According Jesus Christ, everyone has one of two Fathers!***
Is God your Father?

If God were your Father…

I. You would <u>LOVE JESUS CHRIST</u> (v.42)

If God were your Father…

II. You would <u>UNDERSTAND CHRIST'S SPEECH</u> (v.43)

If God were your Father…

III. You wouldn't <u>FULFILL THE LUSTS OF SATAN</u> (v.44a)

If God were your Father…

IV. You wouldn't <u>FIGHT AGAINST THE TRUTH</u> (v.44b-46)

If God were your Father…

V. You would <u>HEAR GOD'S WORDS</u> (v.47)

Conclusion: v.48-50

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Introduction:

Who's Your Daddy" – Pedro Martinez regarding the New York Yankees

How DNA is used to prove who the father is.

Imagine you have a special recipe book inside every cell of your body, which shows how you are made. This recipe book is called "DNA." Half of your recipe book comes from your mom, and the other half comes from your dad. When we do a DNA test, we compare your recipe book to another person's. If half of your recipes match exactly with that person's book, then that person is your dad!

Or to put it another way, DNA is like a set of instructions your body uses to grow and work. You get half of these instructions from your mother and half from your father. A DNA test looks at your DNA and compares it to someone else's. If half of it matches exactly, that person is your father.

ILLUS: the similarities between a father and son

v. 37
Although Jesus is addressing a crowd of people who had such a glorious heritage (cp. Rom. 9:4-5) and although they were genetically linked to Abraham (cp. Jn. 8:33), they were <u>NOT</u> spiritually linked to Abraham. They did not share his faith, his obedience to the truth, his love for God, nor his friendship with God.

Although some made a profession of faith (Jn. 8:30), Jesus knew their hearts, their motives, and their intentions.

As Cain killed righteous Abel, as Nebuchadnezzar sought to kill the righteous Shadrach, Meschech, and Abednego, so here the Jewish people of Jerusalem seek to kill Jesus.

Why? He had done nothing wrong, never told a lie, never stole and never cheated, never violated God's Law, etc. He simply told them the truth – the truth about <u>themselves</u> (that they were depraved sinners) and the truth about <u>himself</u> (that He was the Son of God).

"My Word hath no place in you" = There was no room in their hearts for Christ's Word. They had plenty of space in their hearts for the teachings of rabbi's, the oral traditions, the added man-made rules that were totally unscriptural; but they didn't have room to contain the Word of Christ. Why? Because their hearts were filled with the lies they had heard from **"their father."**

v. 38
Jesus delivered that which He obtained from God, the Father, and they practiced that lifestyle that they obtained from their father. But who was their father? You'll find the answer in verse 44.

v. 39
As they did in verse 33, the Jews appeal to Abraham as their father and rest in his spiritual merits to benefit them (by virtue of their genealogical connection to him).

But Jesus responds by saying that if there was a connection between them and Abraham, they would follow in his steps; they would imitate his words (since children will mimic or copy what they see in their father – "like father, like son").

v. 40
"This did not Abraham" – Abraham never treated Jesus like they did. No, to the contrary, when Jesus (in preincarnate form) appeared to Abraham, he rejoiced and was glad (v. 56) and welcomed him into his home and prepared a meal for him (Gen. 18:1ff).

v. 41
Without yet identifying outright who their father was, Jesus upbraids them for following their father's example.

They then respond by attesting to the legitimacy of their birth into this world; they smugly say, **"We be not born of fornication."** Perhaps implying, "We are not children of an illicit sexual relationship like you were." Evidently they knew that Mary had been with child before Joseph consummated his marriage with her. In their minds, it was Jesus who had the illegitimate father, and not themselves.

Now they move from an appeal to Abraham as their father, and they say, **"We have one Father, even God."** But did they really have God as their Father?

Is God really your Father? How do you know? How are you sure that you have a vital relationship with God the Father? How can you know for a fact that you have been "born again," adopted into God's family?

We are <u>not</u> all children of God. In verses 42 – 47 Jesus gives the criteria where by you can know who your Father really is.

**** According Jesus Christ, everyone has one of two Fathers!***
Is God your Father?

If God were your Father…

I. You would <u>LOVE JESUS CHRIST</u> (v.42)

Loving Jesus Christ is one of the main marks of a child of God.

The Scripture teaches that if one does not love Jesus Christ, he is headed for eternal destruction and damnation.

1 Cor. 16:22
If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

What a love for Jesus Christ Paul came to have! He who formerly hated Jesus Christ and sought to persecute anyone who belonged to Him (Acts 9:1-4) would later come to love Him. (Paul's love is reflected in all of his epistles, but mainly in his lifestyle devoted to Christ).

The acid test of loving Jesus Christ is found in obedience to His Word: "IF ye love Me, keep My commandments."

The reason we love Jesus Christ is because of His oneness with God the Father. He came from the Father's presence and was sent to the earth by the Father's authority.

As 1 John 5:1 teaches, if you love the Father, you will love the Son. You can't love one without loving the other also.

Do you love Jesus?

--When we sing songs of praise and adoration to Him, is your heart in it? (EX: "Oh, How I Love Jesus"; "Jesus is the Sweetest Name I Know")

--Do you desire to spend time in His presence? (as Mary the sister of Martha did)

--Are you motivated to live for Him, tell of Him, give to Him, and glorify Him? (Paul called himself a slave of Jesus Christ?

If God were your Father…

II. You would <u>UNDERSTAND CHRIST'S SPEECH</u> (v.43)

"Why do ye not understand my speech?" – Why is my message so unclear to you?

Spiritual illumination comes only to those who have God as their Father.

The Bible speaks of a spiritual enlightenment or illumination that comes only to the child of God; and it comes once and for all time (Heb. 6:4) at conversion (Heb. 10:32).

Spiritual perception is the grand mark of someone who has been regenerated. At the new birth, the lights go on! We go from darkness to light, from blindness to sight, from lostness to being found, from spiritual ignorance to spiritual understanding.

The reason why the Jerusalem crowd could not <u>perceive</u> or <u>understand</u> Jesus' speech is because they were not able to <u>hear</u> his Word. If you refuse to <u>hear</u> something, you will never <u>perceive</u> its meaning.

Understanding can only come if careful attention is given to what is spoken.

It wasn't stated that they <u>would</u> not hear, but that they <u>could</u> not hear. Something in them prevented their <u>ability</u> to hear.

They could not hear His Word because they had believed the lies that their father told them (v. 44).

Those who belong to Christ both <u>hear</u> His voice and follow Him (Jn. 10:27).

If God were your Father…

III. You wouldn't <u>FULFILL THE LUSTS OF SATAN</u> (v.44a)

Verse 44 is one of the most hard-hitting statements Jesus ever made (no one can ever accuse Jesus of being "politically correct" in His choice of words).

"Nature is determined by birth, and birth is determined by paternity. If God is your Father, then you share God's nature (1 Peter 1:1-4), but if Satan is your father, then you share in his evil nature" (Wiersbe, p. 322).

There are really no spiritual orphans. Everyone has a spiritual father. And the options are either A or B – God or Satan.

Jesus says in effect: "Your father is not Abraham nor God, but the <u>devil</u>!"

"Devil" = *diabolos* – the slanderer; the one who throws things in between man and God, so as to keep men apart from God.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians: *"...For we are not ignorant of his devices"* (II Cor. 2:11). *"Devices"* = Planned out schemes; the deceitful wicked plots of Satan.

What are Satan's deceitful devices?

A. His Devices Toward the <u>Unsaved</u>

1. Satan causes evil persons to pervert the Gospel of Christ. (Acts 13:10; Gal. 1:7)
2. Satan hinders the gospel from being understood and believed. (Mt. 13:19; II Cor. 4:4)
3. Satan puts thoughts of wickedness in the hearts of unbelievers to oppose Christ. (Jn. 13:2; Jn. 8:44; Acts 19:23-34; Jer. 17:9)
4. Satan actively energizes unbelievers to oppose Christ and Christians. (Eph. 2:2; Jn. 6:70; Jn. 13:27; Rev. 13:2)
5. Satan seeks to keep all men unconscious (blinded) to the truth. (II Cor. 4:3-4; II Tim. 2:25b-26; I Jn. 5:19; Lk. 11:21-22)

B. The Devil's Devices toward the <u>saved</u>:

1. Satan sows tares among the wheat (Mt. 13:38; II Cor.11:13)
2. Satan seduces people out of a Godly lifestyle through idleness (I Tim.5:11-15)
3. Satan seeks to intimidate believers by persecution (Rev.2:10)
4. Satan prompts believers to live independently of God (I Chron.21:1)
5. Satan encourages people to live hypocritically to impress others (Acts 5:3)
6. Satan physically afflicts to discourage service and devotion to God (Job 2:7; II Cor.11:7)
7. Satan seeks any "dirt" he can get to belittle Christianity (Rev.12:10; I Tim.3:7; 5:14 cp. Titus 2:5-10)
8. Satan throws obstacles in the path of believers to hinder or thwart their efforts (I Th.2:18; Rom.15:22; Acts 16:16-18)
9. Satan seeks to disturb the unity of the church by creating discord and division (James 3:14-16)
10. Satan paralyzes the spiritual lives of those who are living in sin, and are outside of the fellowship of a local church (I Cor.5:5)

C. The Devil's Devices Toward the Saved & Unsaved

1. Satan conceals his real identity (Gen. 3:1; II Cor. 11:14; Mt. 16:22-23)
2. Satan seeks to tempt in three major areas. (I Jn. 2:16; Heb. 4:15; Lk. 4:3; Lk. 4:5; Lk. 4:9; Gen. 3:6; Mt. 4:3; I Th. 3:5)
3. Satan seeks the "line of least resistance" (I Tim. 2:14; I Pet. 3:7; Gen. 3:1, 13b; Mt. 4:2)
4. Satan thrusts impure thought into the minds of people. (I Cor. 7:5; I Cor. 6:18; II Tim. 2:22; I Pet. 2:11; Ja. 4:7-8)
5. Satan sets up his own counterfeit religious system in imitation of real Christianity. (Rev. 16:13; Rev. 2:9; II Cor. 11:4-5; I Tim. 4:1; I Cor. 10:20; I Cor. 10:21; Ga. 1:7-8; Rev. 13:2; Rev. 13:4; II Tim. 3:5; I Tim. 4:2; Rev. 2:24; I Cor. 2:10)
6. Satan uses false miracle workers to deceive. (II Th. 2:9-10; Mt. 7:22-23; Jer. 27:15; Mt. 24:24; Rev. 13:3; Rev. 13:13-14, 16:13-14; Rev. 12:9, 20:3)

“You wish to do your father’s (Satan’s) desires.” The ultimate desire of Satan was to torture and murder Jesus. Satan would eventually enter Judas’ heart to betray Jesus to His enemies.

On one occasion, though, Satan (through Peter) expressed an opposite motive (when he said, “Be it far from thee, Lord, this shall not be unto thee” - Mt. 16:22).

The lusts of the devil are many (self-exaltation and self-will characterize the philosophy of Satan).

The selfish pursuits of carnal pleasure (at the expense of God’s will), self-advancement, self-glory, pride in human achievement, materialism, etc., are all instigated by Satan.

Those enslaved by such manifest who their father really is.

When Elymas the sorcerer sought to turn the deputy away from the faith, Paul said to him: Acts 13:10

And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

1 John 2:16 outlines the “lusts” of the world as -

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

If God were your Father…

IV. You wouldn't FIGHT AGAINST THE TRUTH (v.44b-46)

v. 44

"He was a murderer" – By his lies he murdered Adam and Eve.

"He robbed Adam of immortality" (Barret, cited by Reinecker, p. 239).

Those who preach a false gospel and speak lies that damn men's souls are the worst form of murderers!

"He speaketh of his own" – He speaks from his own nature and character; His "Native language" (NIV) is lying, because he is the father of lies.

The first liar and the instigator of all lies.

v. 45

Those whose father is the devil, tell lies and believe lies. They are both deceived and they themselves are deceivers.

Many love to hear lies and love to tell lies. Why? Because they belong to the father of lies.

NO one is any more like the devil than a liar.

Lying is opposite the nature of god – who is truth – and it is a mark of those who will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 21:8).

The only way to be free from the enslavement of the liar is to know the Truth of God's Word (v. 32).

Jesus only tells the truth and always tells the truth.

So why would people not believe Him? Because they have believed the lie of the enemy. Satan may come (via a man or a movement) and tell a lie; after that lie has been successfully planted and believed by the victim, he then leaves to spread lies to others who are not anchored firmly to truth.

v. 46

"Which of you convinceth Me of sin?" – Who can prove me guilty of any missing of the mark of perfection.

No one except the sinless Son of God could make such a statement! Never once did Jesus violate the Law; never once did He fall short of God's glory in His attitudes, actions, and words.

So why wouldn't they believe Him? Because they had a different father, who had successfully lied to them.

Those who fight against the truth either actively (through force) or passively (through neglect) manifest that they are not yet children of God.

If God is convicting you, however, it is hard for you to kick against the pricks (the proddings of God's Spirit).

If God were your Father…

V. You would <u>HEAR GOD'S WORDS</u> (v.47)

A clear mark of a child of God will be an ongoing desire to hear, know, believe and obey God's Word. Those who don't even want to hear it show by their deliberate desire to remain ignorant that they are not children of God.

Those who know God as their Father will desire to read God's Word, hear it taught and proclaimed.

1 John 4:6

We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Conclusion: v.48-50

v. 48
When they could no longer attack the truth, they now attack the Speaker Himself.

They accuse Him of being a half-breed Samaritan (the equivalent to a "dog") and as being demon-possessed.

Just like politicians who run out of facts and then use name-calling ("low blows"), so the Pharisees do it now. They use a ethnic slur and make a false accusation.

v. 49
Those who father is the devil will <u>dishonor</u> Jesus Christ.

They will view Him as of no worth or value – someone who is a waste of your time and effort.

v. 50
God the Father sought glory and He deserved it because He is the Judge.