

TRUE DISCIPLES – FALSE DISCIPLES

John 8:31-59

(John 8:31-59), “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; {32} And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. {33} They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? {34} Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. {35} And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. {36} If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. {37} I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. {38} I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. {39} They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. {40} But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. {41} Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. {42} Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. {43} Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. {44} Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. {45} And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. {46} Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? {47} He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. {48} Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil? {49} Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honor my Father, and ye do dishonor me. {50} And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. {51} Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. {52} Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. {53} Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? {54} Jesus answered, If I honor myself, my honor is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: {55} Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying. {56} Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. {57} Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? {58} Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. {59} Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”



- S** THIS MESSAGE CONTINUES THE **LONG** and **INTENSE CONVERSATION** between **Jesus** and the **Pharisees**. The conversation took place **IN JERUSALEM** the day following the Feast of Tabernacles, six months before Jesus' crucifixion.
- S** UP TO THIS POINT IN THIS **CONVERSATION, OUR FOCUS HAS BEEN MOSTLY UPON JESUS**. We have **attempted** to answer THE QUESTION – “WHO IS JESUS?” IN THIS PARTICULAR MESSAGE, **THE FOCUS IS ON two different groups** of people found in the crowd that day.
- (1) **THE FIRST GROUP** we will call “**TRUE DISCIPLES.**” That group heard Jesus' message and **RESPONDED** in a manner pleasing to God.
- (2) **THE SECOND GROUP** we will call “**FALSE DISCIPLES.**” They were religious and claimed allegiance to God, but they rejected Jesus and His message.
- S** If you have **EVER LISTENED TO DEBATES** between parties with strong and differing opinions, you know **how INTENSE** their conversations can become. The Pharisees' challenge of Jesus fell into **that category**. The Pharisees were **SO UPSET** with Jesus that they literally sought to kill Jesus. Our text states, “Then took they up **STONES** to cast at him: . . . ” (V. 59).
- S** What was **MOST ANNOYING** to them was that Jesus **DARED TO CHALLENGE** their theology. They were the religious authorities of that day. They were infuriated because they felt Jesus should have been asking for their views, rather than Jesus giving His views to them.
- S** **JESUS KNEW** quite well that not everyone who listened to Him that day possessed a right relationship with God even though they were religious. **IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US** to realize that **NOT EVERYONE THAT SAYS** he knows God, really knows God. Not everyone who **CLAIMS TO BE A DISCIPLE** of Jesus is really a disciple of Jesus. There is **A DIFFERENCE** between being “**religious**” and being “**rightly related to God.**” The Bible says much about that.

- C **(Mat 7:15)**, "Beware of **false prophets**, which come to you in **sheep's clothing**, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." (They look like prophets of God, but they are not.)
- C **(Mat 24:24)**, "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show **great signs** and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."
- C **(Mat 7:21-23)**, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. {22} Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? {23} And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

S IN JOHN 8, JESUS **DARED TO CHALLENGE** the religious authorities of His day. **THE REASON** He so forcefully challenged them was they were **walking toward eternal destruction** and did not even know it. **Jesus loved them** enough to confront them. He was **WILLING TO HURT THEM** in order that He might **HELP THEM**.

S **SOMETIMES** THE TRUTH has to hurt us before it can help us. It has to make us **MISERABLE** before it can make us free. It is **LIKE SURGERY**. Surgery can be a painful process, but when administered properly, it can lead to a long and healthy life.

 Let's look at Jesus' words regarding **TRUE DISCIPLES and FALSE DISCIPLES**. It is important to understand that just as Jesus' words **MADE PEOPLE ANGRY** two thousand years ago, so His words still make people angry today.

THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF TRUE DISCIPLES:

- I. **TRUE DISCIPLES BELIEVE GOD'S WORD**
- II. **TRUE DISCIPLES REFLECT THE HEAVENLY FATHER**
- III. **TRUE DISCIPLES HONOR THE LORD JESUS**

I. TRUE DISCIPLES BELIEVE GOD'S WORD

JESUS HAD MUCH TO SAY ABOUT GOD'S WORD IN OUR TEXT. Jesus was referring to God's Word when He used the words "**speech**" (1x's), "**saying**" (2x's), and "**word(s)**" (4x's).

(V. 31), "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in **MY WORD**, THEN ARE YE **MY DISCIPLES** INDEED;"

(V. 37), "I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because **MY WORD** hath no place in you."

(V. 43), "Why do ye not understand **MY SPEECH?** even because ye cannot hear **MY WORD**."

(V. 47), "He that is of God heareth **GOD'S WORDS**: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

(V. 51), "Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep **MY SAYING**, he shall never see death."

(V. 55), "... I know him, and keep **HIS SAYING**."

S **AN ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE** between "**true disciples**" and "**false disciples**" has to do with their relationship to **GOD'S WORD**.

S "**TRUE DISCIPLES**" ACCEPT GOD'S WORDS AS TRUE BECAUSE GOD HAS DECLARED HIS WORD IS TRUE.

C **(Psa 19:9)**, "... The judgments of the LORD are **TRUE** . . . "

C **(Psa 119:151)**, "... All thy commandments are **TRUTH**."

C **(Psa 119:160)**, "Thy word is **TRUE** from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever."

C **JESUS SAID (Mat 5:18)**, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, **ONE JOT** or **ONE TITTLE** shall in no wise pass from the law, **TILL ALL BE FULFILLED**."

C **(Rev 21:5)**, “. . . And he said unto me, Write: for THESE WORDS ARE **TRUE** and faithful.”

S **“FALSE DISCIPLES”** give God’s Word, the Bible, no greater place in their life than they give Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*. They hear it and shrug it off by saying something like, “O, those are just words.” With **Satan** they say, “. . . Yea, hath God said, . . . ” (Gen 3:1).

S **THE FIRST GREAT STANDARD** by which God distinguishes between **“true disciples”** from **“false disciples”** IS THEIR ACCEPTANCE or REJECTION OF **THE WORD OF GOD**.

“TRUE DISCIPLES” RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD IN AT LEAST THREE WAYS:

#1. TRUE DISCIPLES “HEAR” GOD’S WORD
(V. 47), “He that is of God **HEARETH** God's words: . . . ”

S There is a difference between hearing with the **ears** and hearing with the **heart** and the **spirit**. “True disciples” have been granted **THE ABILITY to “hear”** God’s Word with their heart.

S **PETER** is as an example in **MATTHEW 16**.

Jesus asked His disciples:

C **(V. 13)**, “. . . ‘Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?’”

The disciples said:

C **(V. 14)**, “. . . ‘Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.’”

Jesus said to His disciples:

C **(V. 15)**, “. . . But whom say ye that I am?”

Peter answered:

C **(V. 16)**, “. . . ‘Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”

Jesus said to Peter:

C **(V. 17)**, “. . . ‘Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.’”

PETER had the capacity to HEAR and SEE God’s truth because God had revealed it to him and he had accepted it.

S Perhaps this truth **is why** Jesus spoke the following words so often:

(Luke 8:8), “. . . He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” (Matt 11:15; Mark 4:9; Luke 14:35).

#1. TRUE DISCIPLES “HEAR” GOD’S WORD (with the heart)

#2. TRUE DISCIPLES “BELIEVE” GOD’S WORD
(V. 31), “Then said Jesus to those Jews which **BELIEVED ON HIM**, . . . ”

S **THE ESSENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH** is **“FAITH” IN JESUS**. Without belief in Jesus there is no Christianity. That is why the Bible tells us so often to believe in Jesus.

C **(John 3:16)**, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever **BELIEVETH** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

C **(John 3:36)**, “He that **BELIEVETH** on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that **BELIEVETH NOT** the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

S **IT IS IMPOSSIBLE** to please God apart from belief in His Word.

(Heb 11:6),

(Heb 11:6), “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

S THE TEST of TRUE DISCIPLESHIP is **simple** – “**DO YOU BELIEVE GOD’S WORD?**” TRUE DISCIPLES “**BELIEVE**” God’s Word.

- #1. TRUE DISCIPLES “**HEAR**” GOD’S WORD
- #2. TRUE DISCIPLES “**BELIEVE**” GOD’S WORD

#3. TRUE DISCIPLES “CONTINUE” IN GOD’S WORD

(V. 31), “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **IF YE CONTINUE IN MY WORD**, then are ye MY DISCIPLES indeed;”

(V. 51), “Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man **KEEP MY SAYING**, he shall never see death.”

(V. 55), “. . . I know him, and **KEEP HIS SAYING.**”

S THE PROCESS IS THREEFOLD:

- (1) The *true disciples* “**HEAR**” God’s Word.
- (2) They “**BELIEVE**” God’s Word.
- (3) *True disciples* “**CONTINUE**” in God’s Word. Their continuance in God’s word is manifest by their **OBEDIENCE** to God’s Word. True faith is a faith that obeys God’s Word!

S THE BIBLE IS CLEAR ON THIS SUBJECT:

C (1 John 2:4), “He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

C (Mat 7:21), “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he **THAT DOETH THE WILL** of my Father which is in heaven.”

C (James 1:22-23), “But be ye **DOERS** of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. {23} For **IF** any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a

man beholding his natural face in a glass:”

C (James 1:25), “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and **CONTINUETH** therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a **DOER** of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

C (John 14:21), “He that hath my commandments, and **KEEPETH THEM**, he it is that loveth me: . . . ”

S JESUS SAID THE WISE MAN built his house upon the “rock” and the rains, winds and floods beat against his house and it stood. The “rock” upon which the wise man built his house was **THE WORD OF GOD**. Listen to that parable as Jesus uses the two words “**hear,**” and “**do.**”

(Mat 7:24), “Therefore whosoever **HEARETH** these sayings of mine, and **DOETH THEM**, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon **A ROCK:**”

S “TRUE DISCIPLES” of Jesus build their lives upon the “rock” of the Word of God. They **HEAR, BELIEVE** and **OBEY**.

- #1. TRUE DISCIPLES “**HEAR**” GOD’S WORD
- #2. TRUE DISCIPLES “**BELIEVE**” GOD’S WORD
- #3. TRUE DISCIPLES “**CONTINUE**” IN GOD’S WORD

IN CONTRAST to *true disciples*, “**FALSE DISCIPLES**” REACT TO GOD’S WORD IN **THREE WAYS:**

#1. THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND GOD’S WORD
(V. 43), “Why do ye **NOT UNDERSTAND** my speech? . . . ”

S WHEN A FALSE DISCIPLE looks into God’s Word, IT IS **LIKE A CALF** looking at a new gate. IT IS **LIKE A DEER** looking into the headlights of a car at night. God’s Word makes no sense to them.

S JESUS SAID TO NICODEMUS

(John 3:7), "MARVEL NOT that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

S SCRIPTURE SAYS:

C (1 Cor 2:14), "But the natural man RECEIVETH NOT the things of the Spirit of God: for they ARE FOOLISHNESS unto him: NEITHER CAN HE KNOW THEM, because they are spiritually discerned."

C (1 Cor 1:18), "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish FOOLISHNESS; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

S PETER looked at Jesus while at Caesarea Philippi and said to Him, "... Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mat 16:16). The Pharisees looked at the very same Jesus and concluded that He was Beelzebub (Mark 3:22).

#1. FALSE DISCIPLES DO NOT UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

#2. FALSE DISCIPLES DO NOT HEAR GOD'S WORD

(V. 43), "Why do ye not understand my speech? EVEN BECAUSE YE CANNOT HEAR MY WORD."

(V. 47), "He that is of God HEARETH GOD'S WORDS: YE THEREFORE HEAR THEM NOT, because ye are not of God."

S ISAIAH SPOKE of some people who had eyes, but who could not see. He spoke of a people who had ears, but who could not hear (Isa 6:10).

S JESUS SPOKE OF THOSE PEOPLE:

(Mat 13:15), "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are DULL OF HEARING, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

S DO YOU REMEMBER when you began to "hear" God's Word? I remember quite well the night I actually began to "hear" God's Word.

S Serving as a pastor over the years, it has been exciting to watch people as they moved from the ranks of the "unable to hear," to the ranks of those who "have ears to hear."

#1. THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD

#2. THEY DO NOT HEAR GOD'S WORD

#3. FALSE DISCIPLES DO NOT BELIEVE GOD'S WORD

(V. 45), "And because I tell you the truth, YE BELIEVE ME NOT." (V. 46), "... And if I say the truth, WHY DO YE NOT BELIEVE ME?"

S THE TEST OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP IS SIMPLE, BUT ACCURATE—DO YOU BELIEVE GOD'S WORD?

S THE QUESTION IS NOT, "Are you religious?" The Pharisees were religious, but they were lost. A person CAN KNOW THE PLAN OF SALVATION and still miss heaven. A person can preach and cast out demons and still go to hell (Matt 7:21-23). Someone might say, "I go to church." People can go to church and still not believe in Jesus. Judas was one of Jesus' twelve disciples, and yet he was lost.

S THE QUESTION IS—DOES GOD'S WORD HAVE PLACE IN YOUR HEART? Do you "hear," "believe" and "obey?"

S JESUS SAID TO THE PHARISEES:

(V. 37), "I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because MY WORD HATH NO PLACE IN YOU."

I. TRUE DISCIPLES BELIEVE GOD'S WORD

II. TRUE DISCIPLES REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER

S THE WORD "FATHER" IS USED **13 TIMES** in our text. It refers to **three different persons**.

(1) **THREE TIMES** "FATHER" REFERS TO **ABRAHAM**.

C (V. 39), "... Abraham is our father . . . "

(2) **FIVE TIMES** "FATHER" REFERS TO **THE LORD GOD**.

C (V. 49), "Jesus answered, . . . I honor my Father, . . . "

(3) **FIVE TIMES** "FATHER" REFERS TO **SATAN**.

C (V. 44), "Ye are of your father the devil, . . . "

#1. TRUE DISCIPLES REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF THEIR FATHER ABRAHAM

(V. 39), "They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, **YE WOULD DO THE WORKS OF ABRAHAM.**"

S **WHO WAS ABRAHAM?** He was **A "TRUE DISCIPLE"** of God.

S **ABRAHAM DID THE THREE THINGS** THAT ALL "TRUE DISCIPLES" DO.

(1) **HE "HEARD" GOD!**

C (Gen 12:1), "Now **THE LORD HAD SAID** unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee:"

(2) **HE "OBEYED" GOD!**

C (Gen 12:4), "**SO ABRAM DEPARTED, AS THE LORD HAD SPOKEN** unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was **SEVENTY AND FIVE YEARS OLD** when he departed out of Haran."

C (Heb 11:8), "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, **OBEYED**; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."

(3) **HE "BELIEVED" GOD!**

C (James 2:23), "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD**, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called **THE FRIEND OF GOD.**"

ABRAHAM BELIEVED IN JESUS EVEN THOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW HIM BY NAME:

C (John 8:56), "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad."

S **TRUE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM** still do those three things: **hear, believe and obey.**

#1. TRUE DISCIPLES **REFLECT THE WORKS OF FATHER ABRAHAM**

#2. TRUE DISCIPLES REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF GOD THE FATHER

(V. 38), "I speak that which I have seen with **MY FATHER . . . "**

(V. 49), "... I honor my Father . . . "

(V. 50), "And I seek not mine own glory: . . . "

S **LIKE JESUS**, TRUE DISCIPLES reflect the character of God. They may not reflect the Father's character perfectly as Jesus did because they are sinners, but they reflect it nonetheless.

C (Gal 5:22-23), "But **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, {23} Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

C (Mat 5:14), "**YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

C (**Mat 5:16**), “**LET YOUR LIGHT** so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

C (**1 Cor 6:19-20**), “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? {20} For ye are bought with a price: **THEREFORE GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY**, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

C (**2 Cor 3:18**), “But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are **BEING TRANSFORMED INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY**, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

IN CONTRAST, “**FALSE DISCIPLE’S**” DO NOT REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF ABRAHAM, OR GOD THE FATHER. **THEY DO REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF “THEIR FATHER.”**

(V. 37), “I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but **YE SEEK TO KILL ME**, because my word hath no place in you.”

(V. 38-40), “I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. {39} THEY answered and SAID unto him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ JESUS SAITH UNTO THEM, ‘**If ye were Abraham's children**, ye would do the works of Abraham. {40} But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: **this did not Abraham.**’”

S Those religious authorities were the **physical descendants** of Abraham, but they were **not his spiritual descendants**. They did not manifest the character of Abraham. Neither did they believe in the one whom Abraham believed in (John 8:56).

Jesus said:

(V. 41), “Ye do the deeds of **YOUR FATHER . . .**”

They said:

(V. 41), “. . . ‘We be not born of fornication; . . . ’” (They implied that Jesus was born of fornication.)

(V. 41c), “. . . We have one Father, even God.”

Jesus said:

(V. 42-43), “. . . ‘If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. {43} Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.”

(V. 44), “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

S Those Pharisees had great spiritual heritage, but they did not reflect the character of their ancestor Abraham. In light of the fact that they sought to kill Jesus, they certainly did not reflect the character of God. Rather than being in fellowship with God, they were in the league with the power of darkness. Like Satan, the Pharisees manifest the character of murder.

S THAT SAYS SOMETHING TO US. Family lineage does not make a person right with God. **RELATIVES MAY BE NICE, BUT THEY CANNOT TAKE A PERSON TO HEAVEN.** The fact that a person’s grandfather was a preacher, does not place him in right relationship with God. The essential element is relationship with God, not relationship with earthly family. The question is, “Do you have a personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus?”

S It is often interesting the way that a people act when they suddenly discover they are talking to a preacher. I was talking

with a man standing beside a lake some time ago. Once he asked and discovered my occupation, he nearly swallowed his tongue. Then he began doing what people often do when they discover they are talking to a preacher. They began talking about some distant relative that is a preacher. They talk about some missionary they know. It is almost as if they believe that knowing someone that is right with God, makes them right with God. They fail to realize that **HAVING GODLY RELATIVES IS NICE, BUT THEY CANNOT TAKE ANYONE TO HEAVEN.**

- I. TRUE DISCIPLES **BELIEVE GOD'S WORD**
- II. TRUE DISCIPLES **REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER**

III. TRUE DISCIPLES LOVE AND HONOR THE LORD JESUS

(V. 42), "Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, **YE WOULD LOVE ME:** for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me."

(V. 49), "Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but **I HONOR MY FATHER,** and ye do **DISHONOR ME.**"

S REVEAL the place that Jesus has in your life, and you will have revealed your relationship to God. Do you **LOVE JESUS?** (Matt 22:36-38). Is He **LORD** of your life? (Rom 10:9).

S REMEMBER JOHN 6

- C **(John 6:28)**, "Then said they unto him, 'What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?'"
- C **(John 6:29)**, ". . . This is the work of God, that ye **BELIEVE** on him whom he hath sent."

FALSE DISCIPLES:

- I. **BELIEVE GOD'S WORD**
- II. **REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER**
- III. **LOVE AND HONOR THE LORD JESUS**

FALSE DISCIPLES -

- C DO NOT **LOVE OR HONOR THE LORD JESUS?**
- C DO NOT **REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER**
- C DO NOT **BELIEVE GOD'S WORD**

IN CONCLUSION CONSIDER HOW TO RECEIVE GOD'S WORD:

(NASB James 1:21), "Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility **RECEIVE THE WORD** implanted, which is able to save your souls."

STEP #1 - "PUTTING ASIDE ALL FILTHINESS and ALL THAT REMAINS OF WICKEDNESS . . . "

- C **2 Cor 7:1**, ". . . Let us **CLEANSE OURSELVES** from **ALL FILTHINESS** of the flesh and spirit . . . "
- C **Eph 4:22**, ". . . **PUT OFF** concerning the former conversation . . . "
- C **Eph 4:25**, "Wherefore **PUTTING AWAY** lying . . . "
- C **Col 3:8**, ". . . **PUT OFF** all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."
- C **Rom 13:12**, ". . . **CAST OFF** the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."
- C **Heb 12:1**, ". . . Let us **LAY ASIDE** every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us"

S **THE FILTHINESS OF SIN** is like wax in a person's spiritual ears. It keeps a person from hearing and receiving God's Word. That is why the Bible tells us to **CAST IT OFF**. Sin keeps us from receiving God's Word.

LISTEN AGAIN TO THE VERSE:

(NASB James 1:21), "Therefore putting aside **ALL** filthiness and **ALL THAT REMAINS OF WICKEDNESS, . . .** "

S "**ALL**" literally means "**ALL**." The "remains of wickedness" refers to **THE LEFT OVERS** of sin. James is saying, "Don't keep a place in your life for the residue of sin. **GET RID OF ALL OF IT!**"

C **Heb 12:1**, ". . . Let us **LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT**, and the sin which doth so easily beset us"

STEP #1 - "PUTTING ASIDE ALL FILTHINESS and ALL THAT REMAINS OF WICKEDNESS. . . ."

STEP #2 - "IN HUMILITY RECEIVE THE WORD implanted, which is able to save your souls."

S The New Testament Greek has two different words for "**RECEIVE**":

- (1) THE WORD "**LAMBANO**" means "**to take for yourself.**" You could use it to describe a little kid reaching into a jar of jelly beans and taking a handful.
- (2) THE WORD "**DECOOMAI**" means "**to welcome .**" You could use this word to describe receiving **a friend** who has come to visit in your home.

HAVE YOU ever had the experience of someone ringing your doorbell when your home was not clean? You were tempted to visit with them on the porch rather than inviting them into your home. That serves as an illustration of what we do with God's Word when it comes knocking at the door and there is uncleanness in our heart. We are tempted to leave God's Word out on the porch of our life, rather than inviting it in.

That is why **THE PHARISEES** would not receive Jesus.

LISTEN AGAIN TO THE VERSE:

(NASB V. 21), ". . . **IN HUMILITY** receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls."

S The King James Version reads, "**RECEIVE WITH MEEKNESS.**" The Greek word means to be "gentle," "compliant," "submissive." It is used of **A HORSE** that has been tamed. We will **NEVER RECEIVE** God's Word unless we are willing to be "tamed" by it.

S In order to receive God's Word we must be **LIKE THE FERTILE SOIL** Jesus described in Matthew 13. When God's Word is presented to us, we must be willing to receive it. We must be willing to receive it even when it hurts us. Sometimes God's Word has to hurt us before it can help us.