

Sermon Notes for Reflection and Discussion

John 8:21-30 The Same Thing, Main Thing, and Plain Thing

Questions

- 1) Introduction - In the introduction of his sermon Jamie Brown stated, "We are always being called back to the person of Jesus." What does it mean to you? Why is it important?
- 2) Singular Sin - In v21 Jesus says to the Pharisees and others they will die in their sin. Note, the word sin is singular, not plural. What is their singular sin? In other words, what is the one thing that keeps us from receiving forgiveness, cleansing, and eternal life?
- 3) Work of God - See v23-24. Jesus states their problem. They are from below. They are of this world. And they are condemned to death. How can they be raised, ransomed, and resurrected? See v24. Refer to John 6:29.
- 4) Same Thing - What is the same thing? See v25. Jesus keeps graciously, patiently repeating the same thing. Jamie Brown described this as the beautiful, repetitious revelation of God. And what is the same thing?
- 5) Main Thing - What is the main thing? "I am what I have been telling you," therefore you must listen! Jamie Brown quoted Augustine as writing about v24, "Thankfully, Jesus said, 'Unless you *believe*' instead of 'unless you *comprehend*.'" Why is this a relief to you and me? Jesus is consistent and changeless. Simply listen to him. See v26. "I declare to the world what I have heard from him [the Father]." Listen!
- 6) Plain Thing - What is the plain thing? What is the unmistakable image or symbol of God's love and justice, mercy and forgiveness, cleansing and eternal life? What is your role as an ambassador of Jesus? It is simply to say, "Believe and listen. The plain thing is to look to the cross." To what did Jamie compare the cross? See Genesis 28:10-14. Compare these two images. In what ways are they similar?
- 7) Slow Walk with Jesus - Pause and consider our slow walk with Jesus through the Gospel of John. Do you remember key things Jesus said about himself? Can you state a few of them? What do they reveal to you about Jesus? About his relationship with the Father? Or about what is required to receive eternal life? Are you, by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, enjoying a slow walk with Jesus? Developing a deeper, more personal relationship with Jesus? Perhaps you would be willing to share how this slow walk through the Gospel of John has impacted your life of faith?