

Which Father

5-26-24

John 8:38 (ESV)

I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.

Jesus addressed the people who rejected him. HE says that HE obeys HIS father the that they obey their father. Jesus indicates that in this world that there are two distinct groups of people with two different fathers.

1 John 5:19 (ESV)

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Clearly there is no middle ground. To be born of God is to be safe from the power of the evil one. Not to be born of God is to be wholly under the power of the evil one. We rejoice that we are under the protection of God. However, we need to understand that the world is a dangerous place. We need to be watchful. Now Jesus continues his severe rebuke.

John 8:44 (ESV) NO/OH

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character (native language), for he is a liar and the father of lies.

These words come directly off the sweet lips of Jesus. This explains the danger and insanity of this present world. The truth is not politically correct.

Jesus tells the people opposing HIM that their father is the devil, and they do what the devil tells them to do. Jesus tells us that the devil is not some mischievous figure that plays tricks on us. Jesus clearly shows us that the devil is a murderer who desires our total destruction and our family's destruction. The devil wants to hurt us. The devil is against all truth. The devil is the great deceiver. He is a liar. His native language is the lie and he is the father of all lies. The devil is the father of all false religions: Mormon, Muslim, Hindu, and liberal Christianity. Of course, we lovingly share Jesus, but we must never forget that these religions are tools of Satan led by Satan himself. We can see murder and abuse leading to Hell, but seemingly sweet and kind words that speak of many ways to heaven also lead to the very same Hell.

Don't be deceived. It is easy to identify who someone's spiritual father is by identifying who they listen to.

John 8:47 (ESV)

Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.

The devil does not just come out of the blue and overcome people. People make decisions that give the devil a foothold in their life from which he is able to work. The Bible warns, Eph.4:27 (NIV) "Do not give the devil a foothold." When the devil has a foothold, he uses it as a base to gain more influence over our life. Although secure in Heaven, even believers can give the devil a foothold resulting in tremendous grief in their life while here on earth.

For the devil to carry out his evil deeds, he needs our cooperation. We have a clear example of the devil's mode of operation by examining the fall of Judas Iscariot. As with Judas, the first step to open ourselves up to the devil comes from our own volition our very own human flesh.

John 12:3–6 (ESV) v. 6 O/H

³ Mary one of Jesus' followers took some very expensive perfume and anointed Jesus' feet and head. She wiped his feet with her hair. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for a year's wages and given to the poor?" ⁶ He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

Judas was in charge of the money bag. Judas used his position to reimburse himself for all his hard work by slipping a few bucks out of the money bag now and then. By his own volition, Judas identified his inner character. He was a thief. His self-serving act gave the devil the foothold he needed. Now the devil could use this foothold as a base to gain more influence in Judas' life. It was Judas' own decision that opened the door for the devil. Lesson #1: People's own decisions open the door for the devil to enter.

By not repenting of his sin, Judas fell under greater influence of the devil. During the first celebration of the Lord's Supper, we see the evidence of the devil's growing influence.

John 13:2 (ESV)

During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him.

Notice, this is not just fleshly human sin of Judas' own volition. This is the direct influence of the devil on Judas' heart to betray Jesus. Judas's compromise led to him falling increasingly under the influence of the devil until he was blind to his own evil. Lesson #2: Once people open the door to the devil, they incrementally become capable of doing more evil than they ever imagined possible. Jesus is fully aware of this betrayal. At the table just before the first Lord's Supper, Jesus gives Judas a piece of bread.

John 13:27 (ESV)

Then after Judas had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly."

Jesus gave Judas over to his own sin and Satan enter him, took possession of him. Lesson #3: Ultimately there comes a point of no return and Satan takes possession of a person. Reality:

Mark 14:21 (ESV)

Woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.

We do not need to be afraid, but we need to be aware. Fear the Lord and don't jump into thorn bushes.

James 4:7 (ESV)

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.