INTRODUCTION

This weekend we listen to the ongoing conversation Jesus had with a crowd of religious people on Temple mount in Jerusalem. The topic of this section? Who’s your father? While the crowd is answering the question in terms of their ethnic lineage, Jesus means for them to understand the connection they have spiritually, as evidenced by the way they treat Him. What we see here can be traced all the way from Genesis 3:15 where God declares to the Serpent, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring ...”

Picking up the story ...

The Crowd’s Declaration: Abraham is our father! v. 39a

Jesus’ Response: But you are not doing the works of Abraham! vv. 39b-41a

The Crowd’s Correction: God is our Father! v. 41b

Jesus’ Response: Same problem ... you’re not doing the works of God! v. 42

Jesus’ Diagnosis: You cannot hear My Word because you are not of God. vv. 43-47

1) You are of your father the devil
2) You are blinded by the devil to the truth
3) You are enslaved to sin and in need of a Savior (8:24, 34-36)
4) If God is your Father, you will love God the Son

Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and I am here.” John 8:42
REFLECT | John 8:39-47

In what ways do you functionally live your life as if God is not your Father? What are some commands Jesus calls you to that you do not obey? Does God’s Word abide or “feel at home” in your heart? Why is it such a serious thing for Jesus to say that the devil is the father of the Pharisees? What does that mean about their eternal state? What are some characteristics of a person who has God as his Father?

MEMORIZE | 1 PETER 5:6-9

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

STUDY | 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6

How should this passage cultivate compassion in our heart for lost people? What is their problem? If God is the one who shines into dark hearts, how should that inform our prayer life? Do you pray for the unbelievers in your life? What is the only proclamation God uses to break into the darkness of men’s hearts according to Paul? Does your Gospel communication include telling people that Jesus is Lord? Why is this a necessary component to explain?

SHARE

Make a list of people you would like to see come to Christ. Put those names in a place you will see often. Pray that God would not only give you opportunities to share the hope of Christ with them, but that He would first open their eyes to see the truth of Jesus.

PRAY

Pray about adopting a GO team to pray for. Pray also about partnering with them financially. Go to: gracebaptist.org/goteams or gracebaptist.org/gosupport for more info. Take time and pray for some of the needs of our congregation. Go to: gracebaptist.org/prayer to see the requests. Feel free to submit a prayer request of your own as well and let the Church pray for you!

If you have any questions or need additional resources, email Pastor David: david.hegg@gracebaptist.org