## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS JOHN 8:30-59

Sermon Notes:

🖋 Jesus is the Truth-\_\_\_\_\_

🖋 Jesus is the Bondage-\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus is the Curse-\_\_\_\_\_

John introduces the concept of false believers as early as the end of John chapter 2. Here we have another instance of false believers. Though they believe in verse 30, Jesus continues truth-speaking to them. What does he say that distinguishes between true and false believers? Consider the following scenarios before discussion with your community group:

Gary has always been in Christian environments, from a Christian family to Christian school to working at a Christian parachurch organization. When he was young, he prayed a prayer of belief in Jesus with his parents. Soon he was baptized. As a teenager, he struggled with sexual sin. His parents talked to him and said he needed to stop. Gary felt bad about his sin but knew he was forgiven already. His sin followed him all the way through Christian school and through college education until he found himself a leader of other Christians. But still the sin followed him. He was a nice person and was always thought well of but he never gained any measure of victory over sin. Finally his sin caught up with him and he was found out through the internet/camera system at his parachurch organization. What type of counsel might Jesus offer to Gary?

Clarice intellectually struggled with the claims of Jesus. What about the Trinity? What about his death and resurrection? What about other religions? Are good people in hell? She continued to have these doubts but would find herself immersed in the Bible. Coming out of Bible study, she would commit herself again to her relationship with God. Through the years, these doubts would come and threaten to claim her for good. But always she was drawn to the Bible for the answers and would come away stronger in faith. Since beginning a relationship with Jesus, Clarice overcame substance abuse, willingly served at the Rescue Mission, shared her income with the household of faith, yet she would still have intellectual battles with the claims of Christianity. What type of counsel might Jesus offer to Clarice?

Jose was quiet and reserved on the outside but inside he was always looking for pleasure. He floated in and out of various religious systems that claimed Jesus as the Savior. When he finally came into a church that preached the grace of Jesus, he found himself consistently attending. He loved the concept of grace. But instead of grace teaching him to deny all ungodliness, he began to give in to pleasures and parties all week while basking in grace on Sundays. What type of counsel might Jesus offer to Jose?

**"Faith without works is dead" is a favorite verse of certain legalistic systems of religion.** For the legalist, outward repentance is easy. They have a certain list they follow. Jesus comes in and destroys the legalist by addressing the heart. Can you think of some of Jesus' words that destroys works-based salvation? Here in John 8, Jesus accuses the religious leaders of doing the works of their father (and he definitely doesn't mean Abraham). What is Jesus pointing to by saying Abraham is not their father? (Consider Genesis 15:6 in your answer.)

**Unbelief in the true nature of Jesus is a mark of someone who is lost.** What are some unbiblical views of Jesus that you have heard? What was the unbiblical view of Jesus expressed in John 8:41? What does the Bible teach you must believe about Jesus in order to have eternal salvation? (John 8:42 and 58, Acts 4:12, Romans 10:8-9, Heb. 1:1-4)

Jesus points to those who will not believe in Him as those who actually do not believe in God. Is it possible for people to claim to know God and even have supernatural or spiritual experiences - and still NOT know Him? Think of stories in the Bible where people had spiritual or unexplainable supernatural experiences not rooted in true faith (i.e., Exodus 7).

5 The slavery of every human soul to sin has been a barrier to truth for thousands of years. Think about it, when you first understand you did something wrong, you did either of the following things: hid it in shame, blamed someone else, denied it and lied to yourself. Look at Genesis 3:7-13 to describe how Adam and Eve responded when first seeing their sin. What is Jesus' promise to true believers when it comes to their sin? (John 8:34-36)

What is the difference between struggling with sin and slavery to sin? How does our battle with sin relate to our faith? How can a deeper understanding of the Savior help us in our battle with sin? (Eph. 6)

Jesus explains his relationship to Abraham. What do we know about Jesus' true identity when we read about his view of Abraham? (John 8:39-40, 56-58) What did the Jewish leaders understand when Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I am"? What does their behavior in John 8:59 show?

Bible clues that you are a believer or unbeliever – write a "B" for believer or a "U" for unbeliever next to each of the characteristics statements below:

🗱 You believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God	PRATER REQUESTS
🗱 You believe that Jesus is the I AM, equal with God the Father	
🗱 You are unsure that Jesus is the only way to heaven	
🗱 You think there are many roads to eternal life with God	
🗱 You are angry when the Bible shows your lifestyle choices to be sin	
🗱 You refuse to acknowledge your dependence upon God	
🗱 You have been set free from bondage to sin	
🅰 • You live in constant fear of death and hell	
🗱 • You hide, blame, or lie whenever sin is exposed by the light	
🗱 • You have confessed Jesus as Lord and you follow Him in heart and life	