

BELONGING

January 21, 2018 John 8:37-47 by Ben Skeat
Finding Jesus, Finding Life, part 28

³⁷ I know that you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. ³⁸ I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father." ³⁹ "Abraham is our father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would^[c] do what Abraham did. ⁴⁰ As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. ⁴¹ You are doing the works of your own father." "We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself." ⁴² Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. ⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. ⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵ Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! ⁴⁶ Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? ⁴⁷ Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

John 8:37-47

BIG IDEA: How we relate to Jesus tells us who we belong to

1. Jesus is offering LIFE but...

We can believe in him, and still hold onto our darkness (Gal. 5:17)

We can believe in him, and not listen to him (Matt. 7:21-23)

We can believe in him, and lose him in our religious activity (John 8:30)

When we do, we are co-operating with the agenda of the Devil.

2. Those who belong to God RECEIVE Jesus

...If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Gen 18:3

Yet to all who did receive him...he gave the right to become children of God John 1:12-13

Jesus wants to be received on his terms: we love him, and we love who he loves.

3. Those who belong to God BELIEVE Jesus

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness Gen. 15:3

...Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham... Gal. 3:6-9

Come to him (John 7:37-38)

Follow him (John 8:12)

Make your home in his word (John 8:31-32)

Be set free by him (John 8:34-36)