

WHAT'S CHRISTIANITY ALL ABOUT?

February 4, 2018 John 8:48-59 by Bob Branch
Finding Jesus, Finding Life, part 29

BIG IDEA: *Answer the question: What is Christianity all about?*

Feast of Tabernacles (Tents)

3 Symbols: Water, Light and Tents. (John 7:37, 8:12)

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."

1. How we HANDLE JESUS will determine what happens when you die.

⁵² The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never *taste* death.' ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?"

⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad."

2. Jesus is not time-traveling, he is TIMELESS. (John 1:1, 14)

⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?"

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. **John 8:48-59** ESV

Symbol 3: Tents

"Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them." **Exodus 25:8** NLT

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." **John 1:1, 14**

"God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" **Exod. 3:13-14**

"See now that I, *I am He*, and there is no god besides Me" **Deuteronomy 32:39** NAS (Isaiah 43:25)

"unless you believe that *I am he* you will die in your sins." **John 8:24**

"When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that *I am he*" **John 8:28** ESV (4:26; 13:19; 18:5, 6)

Did Jesus ever claim to be God? Yes.

- In light of this claim, we can understand all the other claims Jesus makes.
- In light of this, we can understand why the rest of the NT puts the spotlight on him and makes Jesus central to everything.
- In light of Jesus' claim, it reveals whose hands and feet are nailed to the cross—the hands of God!

3. Christianity (and all of life) is all about JESUS—God come near to us.

What will you do with Jesus?