

# FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF JESUS

## The Faithful I AM

John 8:58

### INTRODUCTION:

- RECONNECT SUNDAY great! Small groups 70%, Worship a little less than 60% of same Sunday last year. PROGRESS!
- REPORT ON CHURCH CONFERENCES – 3 Conferences – 7 Recommendations – 21 Unanimous Votes! Thank God for the sweet spirit of unity He has given us at SABC!
- Comment on day of Repentance and Prayer.
- This week is the last week to register to vote. Just search Bay County Vote on your device and it will take you to the office of Bay County Supervisor of Elections, a very user friendly website. You can register, check your voter status, or request a mail ballot. THIS WEEK!
- Some have asked if we will have Voter Guides on moral issues. YES!

We started last week looking at the faithfulness of God by seeing the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ. We began by looking at the message Jesus came preaching, summarized by Mark in his gospel as

### REPENT, AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL!

But John tells us at the beginning of his gospel, that while Jesus came to His own people, His own did not receive Him. Nevertheless, Jesus was faithful to the mission of His Father to seek and to save those who were lost, and so throughout His ministry, Jesus kept explaining to people who He really is and what He really does.

John captures much of what Jesus said to the people by way of explanation in eight statements spread throughout his gospel.

Each of those statements shows us a lot about the faithfulness of Jesus to those who trust and follow Him.

John 8:31–59 NKJV

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” 33 They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free?’” ...

51 Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." 52 Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.' 53 Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?"

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad." 57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**"

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

**JESUS WAS CLEARLY SAYING, "I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM!"**

**THE JEWS JUST AS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE WAS SAYING.**

That is why they immediately tried to stone Him.

When Jesus said, "I AM," He was taking the personal name of YHWH for Himself.

About a year ago, I preached a series called KNOWING GOD... BETTER, and we looked at a number of the names of God in an effort to learn more of His person, character, and purpose. We spent one Sunday examining YHWH, which was the name God spoke first to Moses.

**Exodus 3:14 NKJV** And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

**I. THE NAME YAHWEH REVEALS THAT GOD IS SELF-SUFFICIENT, so **Jesus is telling us that He is self-sufficient.****

- Jesus was not created. All things were created by Him and for Him.
- Jesus is eternal. He will always exist. He will forever be here.
- Jesus needs nothing. He is all-sufficient.
- This does not mean Jesus has no desires. He desires all people to trust in Him and be saved.

**II. THE NAME YAHWEH REVEALS THAT GOD IS ALWAYS THE SAME, so **Jesus is telling us that He always remains the same.****

- We can count on the consistency of the character of Jesus.
- We can know that character because we have so many things about Jesus recorded in the Scriptures, particularly in the gospels. Beware of those who describe Jesus ONLY out of their personal experience, especially if the picture painted by their words does not match what you read in Scripture!
  - He is always holy.

- He is always just.
- He is always loving.
- He is always merciful.
- He is always ready for us to cast our cares upon Him.
- He is One with Yahweh, and He never, never changes.
  - He never has a bad day.
  - He is never too busy for us.
  - He is never in a bad mood.
  - Nothing keeps Jesus from responding when we need Him. Remember the thief on the cross.

### **III. THE NAME YAHWEH REVEALS THAT GOD IS ALWAYS PRESENT WITH HIS PEOPLE, so Jesus is telling us that He is always present with His people.**

- Jesus said that He knows His sheep by name. How many of you know President Trump by name? How many of you does President Trump know by name? But Jesus knows you by name.
- Jesus promised His sheep, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
  - This is a promise to those who have trusted Christ.
  - Jesus also said, “My sheep know my voice, and they follow me.”

### **IV. THE NAME YAHWEH REVEALS THAT GOD IS THE GOD OF REDEMPTION, so Jesus is telling us that He Himself is the Redeemer.**

Job may well be the first book of the Bible every written.

**Job 19:25 NKJV For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;**

In spite of all of the troubles and affliction of Job's life, he said,

- I know I have a Redeemer.
- I know He is coming to the earth one day!
- But Job was not the only one who knew.
  - God told Abraham that one of his descendants would be a blessing to all the families of the earth.

- God told Isaiah that the Messiah would come as a suffering servant to give His life as a ransom for many.
- And indeed He did!
  - In the fullness of time, God sent His Son, born of a virgin.
  - At God's instruction through the angel, they called His name Jesus, YHWH's SALVATION.
  - Jesus proved to all willing to see that He was indeed the Son of God by performing many miracles:
    - CALMING OF THE WIND AND SEA
    - FEEDING THE 5,000
    - CASTING OUT THE DEMON FROM LEGION
    - RAISING LAZARUS
  - Many loved Jesus, but not all.
  - Out of fear and envy, His enemies captured and crucified Him.
  - Even this was part of Father's plan.
  - As Isaiah had said, "The Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all."
  - Wages of sin is death; Jesus died for each of us.
  - Tomb sealed and guarded; third day He arose. Appeared to 500+
  - 40 more days on earth, making the gospel message clear.
    - Jesus, God's Son, had died for sin.
    - Rose from the dead
    - Jesus offered forgiveness and eternal life to all who would trust in Him.
    - As He ascended, all who watched knew His words were true. He was I AM. He was YHWH in flesh. He was YHWH's Redeemer.

Have you put your trust in Jesus, the Ever Faithful I AM? Would you?