

LOVE

Law and Eternity

JOHN 8.31- 59

GROWTH GROUPS NOTES FOR W/C 24 SEPTEMBER

In this chapter Jesus clashes with the religious elite who cannot imagine how God can move outside of their established understanding. It's a sober reminder that the foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans. (1 Cor 1.25).

Think about the Church of yesteryear? What are some of the things that seemed so important then, that today we might consider as unimportant? What changed? Why? What things are still the same? Why do you think that is?

Read John 8.31-59— this is a complicated argument, use the points below to follow the story.

- **Jesus** offers freedom for those who follow his teaching
- **Jews:** 'freedom? we're already free, we're Jews!'
- **Jesus:** 'not really, what about your sin? When you sin you're slaves and you follow your father (the devil)'
- **Jews:** 'our father is Abraham and you have the devil in you'
- **Jesus:** 'but Abraham was looking forward to my coming all those years ago'
- **Jews:** 'how ridiculous, you're a young man'
- **Jesus:** 'actually, I am the great I AM'
- **Jews:** 'the I AM? this is blasphemy, he must be put to death'

John is the only Gospel writer to really talk about the "I AM." I AM was the authoritative God of the Old Testament. The Jews knew all about Him because of the Scriptures—at least in their limited way—but they could not grasp that Jesus Christ was also that I AM in the flesh. The truth shocked them and they rejected it. Still, Christ undeniably proved He was the I AM.
Gerald Flurry

Verse 31 notes that these are 'the people who believed in him' Why do you think those Jews, even though they believed in him, could not accept Jesus' teaching?

If the Jews were blinded by the law and their understanding, **which parts of our faith do you think blinds people to the truths about Jesus?**

Notice that John arranges this story sandwiched between two dramatic displays of Jesus' healing love (see 8.1-11 and 9.1-34) - **is that a coincidence, or is John trying to show us something?**

PRAY together, bearing in mind some of your answers above, that we will allow the Lordship of Jesus to reign supreme in our lives and our church and not be limited to our 'way of doing things' or personal preferences,

Listen to this song to finish:

REIGN IN ME <https://tinyurl.com/reigninme21>

Love
LOVE first