

Security Breach

(John 8:37-47)

(preached 12/9/18; Pine Grove BC Sun AM)

Introduction

Take your Bibles and turn to John 8.

Last week we looked at John 8:31-36, and this morning we continue further into the chapter by looking at verses 37-47...

However, I want to read from verse 31 to 47 this morning to give us the context..

So look at verse 31 and lets read down to verse 47..

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33 They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?”

34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are Abraham’s descendants; yet you seek to kill Me,

because My word [j]has no place in you. 38 I speak the things which I have seen [k]with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father."

*39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus *said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. 40 But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. 41 You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but [l]He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand [m]what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks [n]a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of [o]lies. 45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."*

Let us pray.

In June of 1962, Frank Morris, John Anglin, and Clarence Anglin escaped from Alcatraz prison in the San Francisco Bay.

What made this event noteworthy is that Alcatraz was the ultimate maximum security prison.

Not only were there more guards, better fences, and tighter security at Alcatraz, the prison was surrounded by the cold waters and difficult currents of San Francisco Bay.

Most viewed Alcatraz to be America's most secure prison and virtually escape-proof.

Yet, Morris and the Anglin brothers were able to chisel through the wall of their cell, climb up to a roof through a tiny hole, inflate a make shift raft, and float away into the San Francisco Bay to never be found again.

Some say the drowned and others say they made it, but regardless of the outcome, these men broke out of the most secure prison ever.

And that breach of security eventually led to the prison being closed the following year in 1963...

You see, when securities are compromised, change must come...

In the modern day, there are constant changes in the world due to security breaches in technology sectors...

As the security systems of banks and department stores and government offices are invaded by cyber thieves, change must occur in how these organizations guard themselves..

In the same way, people have security systems.

Now, I am not talking about home alarms or camera systems, I am referring to mental and spiritual securities that we place in our lives to protect us from unpleasant thoughts and undesirable outcomes...

Let me give you an example..

When faced with the necessity to fly, people with a fear of heights pretend that that the plane is actually a bus..

When faced with the necessity to have an MRI, people with a fear of tight spaces pretend that they are simply lying in bed.

In the same way, when faced with the thought of what happens after death, people often pretend that they will be fine.

They develop a security system of sorts in their mind to protect them from the thought of not making it to heaven..

The Jews in Jesus day were experts at this.

Though they were not headed to heaven when they died, they had convinced themselves that they were...

And the greatest area of protection in their mind was simply that they were God's chosen people..

In their mental security system, they never considered that God could send any Jew to hell...

In fact, some rabbis even taught that Abraham sat at the gates of hell to keep any Jewish person from entering no matter how evil they were..

Now we may laugh at such silliness since the Bible never teaches anything like that, but I assure you that people today have similar security systems in their mind..

Even some people may assume that God would never send them to hell since they had such godly parents..

Even today, some people assume that God would never send them to hell since they came to church so much..

Even today, some people may assume that God would never send them to hell since they helped so many people or gave so much money or did so much good..

Yet, the Scriptures are clear.

Even the greatest mental security systems we create are overcome by the truth of Christ...

Entrance to heaven is reserved only for those who repent and believe in Christ..

Now that offends many people with false security systems..

That offends people who create their own standards for entrance into heaven..

In fact, this truth is going to offend the Jews so badly that they will have to kill Jesus in order to stop hearing it..

Now as we get to John 8, we are nearing the point where the Jews have heard enough..

As you already know, John 8 is set in the fall before Jesus' death on the cross.

Jesus is going to be killed in the spring at the Passover festival.

So John 8 is 5-6 months prior to his crucifixion..

At this point in his ministry, he has been teaching and preaching all over Israel for nearly 3 years...

He has been in synagogues claiming to be the Messiah.

He has been in the temple at Jerusalem calling Himself God in the flesh.

He has been in streets calling people to believe in Him..

And all the while the Jewish leaders have been angrier and angrier with Him.

He is taking all the attention from them.

He is questioning their teaching.

He is gaining a following.

But the most enraging activity of Christ to the Jewish leadership is that he had been claiming to be the son of God.

So the plans to kill him are growing.

All the Jews need is the right time to pull it off without anyone noticing..

Yet that time hasn't come, so they are waiting.

As a testimony to Jesus' patience and mercy, He continues to preach to them while they wait..

And verses 37-47 are simply part of a message calling these Jews to repent and put their trust in Him..

But this is no ordinary message to them.

In fact, this is some of the strongest, if not the strongest language, that Jesus ever preaches to the Jewish leadership..

And why such strong language?

Because his time to call them to repentance is almost up, and they are still living in unbelief..

And look, there comes a point in our evangelism where we simply must confront unbelief with strong warnings..

We must go after people's mental security systems..

And this is exactly what Jesus does in verses 37-47..

We will divide this message into a couple parts..

Let's begin in verses 37-40 with..

I. There is No Security in Your Family Trees (37-40)

In verse 37, Jesus acknowledges that the Jews are physical descendants of Abraham..

37 I know that you are Abraham's descendants;

No one denied that the Jewish people were the result of God's promise to make Abraham.

God promised Abraham in Genesis 12 to make his family tree enormous..

According to Genesis 12:2, God vows to make Abraham and his descendants a great nation.

And God kept his promise.

Though Abraham's family had small beginnings, they numbered in the millions by the first part of the book of Exodus.

And they had continued to be a great nation all throughout the OT.

And when Jesus arrives on the scene in 30 AD, Israel is still thriving as a nation that had Abraham at the very top of their family tree..

Jesus is also a Jew and part of Abraham's descendants.

So what he says in the first part of verse 37 is exactly true.

He was speaking to those from the line of Abraham, yet family heritage is of zero importance in terms of eternal destinies..

Look at the second part of verse 37...

37 I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word [j]has no place in you. 38 I speak the things which I have seen [k]with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father."

Here is the first shot across the bow by Jesus in this message to them.

Though Jesus doesn't deny the physical makeup of these religious leaders, he does challenge their spiritual makeup.

In other words, these men had the physical DNA of their father Abraham, but they did not have his spiritual DNA.

You see Abraham was a man of faith and obedience to God.

But these men were men with murderous intentions.

They were ready to kill Jesus.

Verse 39..

39 They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.”

Take note..

Jesus just accused them of a murderous plot, but instead of denying that, they simply run to their security blanket of being from the right family tree..

In other words, we may want to murder you, but that is okay since we are descendants of Abraham..

This is family privilege in the worst way..

Look at Jesus’ response..

Jesus *said to them, “If you are Abraham’s children, do the deeds of Abraham. 40 But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do.

Once again, Jesus destroys their false sense of security..

Don’t give lip service to being part of Abraham’s family.

Prove you are his descendants by acting like he acted.

And how did he act?

Well, Abraham responded to God's word with belief and obedience..

And those who truly resemble Abraham are those who believe and obey the word of God..

Look, there are children who resemble their parents outwardly in their looks or the way they talk or walk..

But when you get to know them, they don't live by the same standard as their parents..

They are dishonest.

They are lazy.

They aren't believers..

This was the case with the majority of Jews in the days of Christ.

Their DNA identified them as descendants of Abraham, but their deeds pointed to another father..

Look, the Bible is crystal.

Your folks won't get you into heaven, only your faith will..

Your family tree may have given physical life to you, but spiritual life only comes from faith alone in Christ alone.

Don't put your trust in family, put your trust in Jesus.

A second false security is found in verses 41 and 42..

II. There is No Security in Your Knowledge of God **(41-42)**

In verse 41, Jesus continues to press the issue concerning the sins of these Jewish leaders..

41 You are doing the deeds of your father.”

Though Jesus has yet to say who their father is, he continue to warn them that their father is not Abraham in a spiritual sense...

But look at they respond..

They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.”

The miraculous conception and birth of Jesus had most likely come to light as the Jews had sought to discredit him..

The fact that Josphe was not Jesus’ biological father had opened the door for all sorts of attacks on Jesus, but the main one was seen here in that most Jews saw Jesus as a son born out of wedlock to Mary..

This is a personal attack on Jesus, and this happens even today.

People question the fact that Jesus was a historical figure.

They question if was really more than just a Jewish rabbi.

They question the virgin birth..

They question his deity..

Well, here the Jews question his mother's faithfulness and Jesus' legitimacy..

But more than that, listen to what they say next..

"...we have one Father: God."

Now look, this is an important statement...

On one hand, they are exactly right.

God is their father in the sense that He made them.

He put them together in the womb..

But please note..

A knowledge of God as your Creator does not ensure you know God in a saving way.

There will be many people in hell who will have said that they believed in God..

Many, many people..

Even though our country is spiraling away from Christ and his truth, survey results still show that 80% of people in America say that they believe in God..

Yet, 80% of our country is not headed to heaven at death.

You see, head knowledge is not saving knowledge..

You see, the Jews knew God.

They knew that God was the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

They knew that God was powerful and wise and had all knowledge.

They had the OT, which was given to them by God, and it revealed exactly who God was.

But their knowledge of God as their Father was not enough to save them because knowledge without action is empty.

In fact, listen to what Jesus tells them in verse 42..

42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but [I]He sent Me.

You see, many people know there is a God.

But the vast majority of them do not act on that knowledge by demonstrating a love of Christ and His word..

Jesus is clear here..

If God is your true Father, then you will love His true Son.

You will obey his commands.

You will follow his example.

Look, you can tell your spouse that you love them, but that love will be seen in your actions.

If not, your professed love of them is simply hot air.

The same can be said of these who profess to know God and even profess to love God, but show no evidence of that love in how they live..

Knowledge of God offers no security in the world.

Many people will die knowing that God is real..

Sadly, their knowledge of Him never changed their lives.

I doubt anyone in here would deny the existence of God,
but the real question is this..

Do you love the God that you says exists, and can people
see that love in how you live?

A third and final false security system is seen in verses
43-47..

III. There is No Security in Your Opinion (43-47)

In verse 43, Jesus launches in the most offensive part of this message..

43 Why do you not understand [m]what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.

Jesus had preached for 3 years in Israel, yet his words had no effect on the majority of the Jewish leaders..

And why was that?

Well, simply put....

They valued their words over Jesus' words.

You see Judaism is a religion of opinions.

Yes, God gave the Jews the OT, but instead of reading God's words and obeying what they read, the Jews listened to rabbis interpret the Bible for them..

This is where the Jewish Talmud came from.

The Talmud is a collection of rabbinical interpretations of the OT..

And there are even two further books, the Mishnah and the Gemara which are opinions on the opinions seen in the Talmud..

For most Jews, they are twice removed from God actually said in the OT.

In other words, Judaism is a collection of opinions about other people's opinions..

This was true in the day of Christ where people followed a rabbi because they liked his opinion more than others..

This is why it is so hard for Jesus to gain a following among the Jews..

He was seen as just another opinion..

However, his opinion is God's opinion, which is the only opinion that matters..

But the Jews rejected the words of Christ, and it rejected because they were deaf to it.

The reality is that the people who were supposed to speak for God were deaf to what He was saying..

However, they weren't deaf to the words of Satan..

Look at verse 44...

44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks [n]a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of [o]lies.

Most people assume that Satan is most at work in evil government like Nazism or Communism, but the reality is that the focus of Satan's work is in false religion..

Religious opinions not based upon what God has said in the Bible are the work of Satan.

The Jews had many thoughts and many views of who God was and what He desired, yet their opinions drowned out the truth..

Verse 45..

45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."

Do you know why social media is so popular?

It allows people to promote themselves and offer their opinions without any consequences..

And let me tell you..

I stay off social media as much as possible but anytime I get on it, there are no shortage of religious opinions..

I want to say this clearly.

It doesn't matter what you think God is like if you don't base it on Scripture..

It doesn't matter what you think it takes to get to heaven if you don't base on what God says in the Bible..

Opinions are great, but God's opinion is the only one that matters..

These Jews around Jesus had all sorts of opinions of what their Messiah was like..

But guess what?

All their opinions only drowned out the reality of the Messiah standing right in front of them...

Don't die thinking you know the way to heaven only to find out that your opinion was wrong..

Come to the truth of the gospel revealed in the Bible.

Come in repentance and faith.

Let go of your opinion and embrace the truth of Christ
that is found only in the Scriptures...

Conclusion

Alcatraz Island is not the most recognizable landmark in San Francisco.

That distinction would belong to the Golden Gate Bridge.

This bright red bridge has spanned the San Francisco Harbor since it was completed in 1937.

Yet, the construction of that bridge came at a high cost.

In fact, the first year of construction saw 23 men lose their lives as they fell to their deaths while building the bridge.

For that reason, construction was halted for a time to consider better safety measures..

One of the safety measures was the placement of a large net under the most dangerous areas of construction.

10 men actually fell into that net and survived to work again..

Now the interesting thing is this.

Supervisors found that the pace of construction increased over 25% when the net was installed..

And why was that?

The workers had the added security of a net below them and therefore worked faster and more efficiently..

The Jews in Jesus day had a security net in terms of their standing with God.

That net was made of their family tree, their knowledge of God, and their opinions of what God would do..

Sadly, that net had holes.

And when they fell into eternity, they passed right that net and into hell..

Make sure your security net is sure.

And the only net that holds is a net that comes when you stop trusting your trusting your opinion and simply trusts what the Bible says about being right with God.

You won't find heaven based on your heritage.

You won't find heaven simply because you know there is a God.

The only net that saves you from hell is a net that comes from repentance and faith in Christ alone.... Let us pray.