Gospel of John
[Jesus' True Identity (John 8:48-59)]

Cameo #3 (8:31-59)

-True discipleship is demonstrated by ongoing attachment to Jesus words (v. 31).

-Jesus' hearers are slaves of sin (v. 32).

-The Jews insist Abraham is their father, and they tie their self-proclaimed freedom to that fact (v. 33).

Liberty (vs. 34-36)

-Jesus is the only One who can emancipate them (v. 36) from spiritual slavery to sin (v. 34) so that they may continue to enjoy the privileges of the Father's house (v. 35).

Paternity (vs. 37-47)

-Abraham isn't their father (v. 39). Neither is God (v. 42). The devil is (v. 44). This is why they can't understand what Jesus is saying (v. 47).

I. Exchange #1 (vs. 48-51)

-The Jews: Jesus is a Samaritan and has a demon.

-Jesus: He who keeps My Word will never see death (Rev. 20:6, 14, 15; 21:8).

II. Exchange #2 (vs. 52-56)

-The Jews: Are you better than Abraham? Whom do you make yourself out to be?

-Jesus: Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he was it and was glad (Gen. 3:15; 17:4-7; Luke 1:55; Rom. 4:13; Gal. 3:16).

III. Exchange #3 (vs. 57-59)

-The Jews: You aren't even fifty years old yet. How is it possible for there to have been any contact between you and Abraham?

-Jesus: Before Abraham was, I AM (Ex. 3:14).

Practical Lessons

1) The Jews are a mirror we may look into to assess our posture toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

2) The possibility of false faith demands that we test and prove the genuineness of our faith (Matt. 7:21; John 8:30; 14:15; 2 Cor. 13:5; 2 Pet. 1:10).

3) Jesus is the pre-existent Lord of life who promises life to all who trust in Him.