

The Choice

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I. Introduction. Text: John 8:48-59.

II. The people accuse Jesus of having a demon, but Jesus denies their claim and reaffirms His relationship with the Father without retaliation.

A. It is easy to retaliate when one is accused.

B. The Lord honored the Father by putting vengeance back in the Father's hand.

III. Jesus promised that the one who keeps His word conquered death.

A. Christians do die, but when they die, they will not see death.

B. What Jesus means is that when a believer dies he will experience joy.

C. The good news is that there is a way out of hell and brimstone.

IV. The Father glorifies Jesus. This hints at Jesus' resurrection.

V. Jesus claims to be intimate with God arguing that Abraham foresaw Jesus.

A. The people are stunned by this staggering claim.

B. The Old Testament believers saw Jesus sometimes with great clarity.

VI. Jesus claims deity by saying that He existed before Abraham by using the name of God for Himself, "I AM."

Application questions:

1. When were you tempted to retaliate? What did you learn from the experience?

2. What does it mean that Jesus has conquered death? How can this bring the Christian hope in this life as well as the next?

3. How is Jesus an obstacle in society today? Why is it critical that we understand Jesus' identity and defend it correctly? Explain.
