The Gospel of John

Chapter 8, Verses 21-29

- General Introduction to the Gospel of John
 - one of the *five Johannine books*, all of which are among the last books in the Bible to have been written
 - one of the four gospels, each of which is a biography of Jesus and an historical narrative of his life
 - written in Greek, primarily to those who already believed in Christ, including both Jews and Gentiles

- **Prolog** (1:1-18)
 - Jesus Christ was the Word become flesh (1:14).
 - The "Word" (Greek, Logos) was what God was, and did what God did, from the beginning.
 - "Flesh" emphasizes that Jesus became exactly what we are.
 - Jesus is rejected by the world.
 - But he is the *savior of all who receive him*.

- People began to follow but did not understand Jesus:
 - Jesus was revealed to Israel by John the Baptist, after which some Disciples began to follow Jesus (1:19-51).
 - Jesus performed his *first sign at Cana of Galilee*, at a wedding where he changed water into wine (2:1-11).
 - He then went up to Jerusalem, *cleansed the temple* and performed other *signs* (2:12-25).
 - This attracted the attention of Jewish leaders, including *Nicodemus, to whom Jesus explained that "unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (3:1-21).

- Jesus met with increasing popularity and acceptance:
 - Jesus surpassed John the Baptist, who reassured his own followers that this was as it should be. (3:22-36)
 - The woman by the well and others in Samaria confessed that Jesus is the Savior of the world. (4:1-45)
 - Jesus tells his disciples that "the fields are white for harvest"
 - Jesus healed the son of an official from Capernaum and the man and his household believed. (4:46-53)

- But he was persecuted and hated by Jewish leaders:
 - Jesus healed a man by the pool in Jerusalem and *the Jews* persecuted him because he did so on the Sabbath (5:1-16)
 - The Jews hated Jesus for calling God his father. (5:17-18)
 - Jesus explained that his relationship with God was one of perfect love and unity; **those who reject the Son, do so because they have already rejected the Father.** (5:19-44)

- Back in Galilee, crowds followed Jesus, but mostly for the wrong reasons:
 - Jesus fed 5,000 men and their families with five loaves and two small fish. (6:1-13)
 - Walking on water, Jesus crossed back to the west side of the lake, and again the crowd found him. (6:14-25)
 - Jesus told the crowd that they were following him for the wrong reasons. Rather than looking for earthly rewards, they should believe in Jesus and find eternal life (6:26-29).

- Jesus described himself as the "bread of life"
 - The crowd asked Jesus to verify his claims by doing more miracles, possibly sending *manna from heaven*. (6:30-31)
 - Jesus replied that he himself was, and is, the *true bread from heaven* which gives life to the world. *All whom the Father gives*, believe in Jesus, and are saved. (6:32-40)
 - The fathers who ate the manna in the wilderness died, whereas **those who "eat" Jesus will live forever**. (6:48-51a)

- Saving faith in Jesus is a gift from God:
 - The Jews in Galilee grumbled, because they knew Jesus and his family, and yet he was saying that he came down from heaven and was the savior of the world. (6:41-42)
 - Jesus explained that *nobody could believe except those who* have been drawn to him and taught by God. (6:43-45)
 - Jesus also said that *no one has seen the Father but the Son*, and only those who believe in him have eternal life. (6:46-47)

- Few had yet been given such faith:
 - Jesus said "the bread I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." (6:51b)
 - The Jews argued among themselves concerning what Jesus meant by saying they should "eat his flesh." (6:52)
 - Jesus did not answer in plain speech but, rather, reinforced his metaphor and *made it even more offensive*. (6:53-58)
 - He knew and said that **such things could be understood only spiritually and that few had such understanding**. (6:59-65)

- Those who had been following Jesus were then divided:
 - Most stopped following him. (6:66)
 - The Twelve continued to follow him, understanding he was the Holy One of God with the words of eternal life (6:67-69)
 - *Christ himself had chosen them* for this purpose (6:70a)
 - But one of them was "a devil" (6:70b-71)

..... This brings us to the end of Chapter 6

- To Jerusalem (starting with the Feast of Tabernacles)
 - The *Jewish leaders were seeking to kill Jesus* which is why Jesus had been staying in Galilee and avoiding Judea (7:1)
 - His "brothers" in Galilee did not believe in him. They were still part of the world that world hates Jesus. He sent them on ahead to the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem (7:2-8)
 - Jesus then traveled privately to Jerusalem, where many were looking for him, and *those who were attracted to Jesus were afraid of their leaders*. (7:9-13)

- Going up to the temple in the middle of the festival, Jesus' teaching demonstrated great learning; people marveled at this because of *Jesus' lack of formal education*. (7:14-15)
- Jesus explained that *his teaching was from God*, and that all who were willing to obey God would recognize this. (7:16-17)
- By secretly planning to kill Jesus, and this because he had healed on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders demonstrated the extent of their separation from God. (7:18-24)
- The people were also far from accepting him and practically willful in misunderstanding him. (7:26-29)

- Despite efforts of the leaders to arrest him and the lack of support from the people, *Jesus remained free, because his hour had not yet come*. (7:30)
- Jesus knew, and said, that he would soon return to God, where people would not be able to find or follow him, but the people could not grasp the meaning of what Jesus said. (7:31-36)
- Jesus said that after he was glorified, everyone who was spiritually "thirsty" would receive the Holy Spirit and believe in him (7:37-39)

- The people were divided in their opinions regarding Jesus, as to whether Jesus he had come in fulfillment of this or that Old Testament prophesy. (7:40-44)
- Asked by the Pharisees why they had not arrested Jesus, the temple guards testified "no one ever spoke like this man!" (7:45-46)
- The Pharisees said the guards and the people had been deceived by Jesus, owing to their ignorance of the law. (7:47-49)

- But Nicodemus suggested the *Pharisees were themselves in violation of the law, by judging Jesus without a fair hearing*. (7:50-51)
- The Pharisees seemed content to condemn Jesus based on the *false testimony* they had received concerning him. (7:52)
- 7:53 8:11 is the story of the woman caught in adultery regarding whom Jesus said to her accusers, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

Review (last week's reading)

- The Pharisees claimed that Jesus testimony was untrue, because he bore witness about himself. (8:12-13)
 - Jesus replies that, because of who he is, his testimony is true even without witnesses. (8:14-15)
 - but *if witnesses are required, Jesus certainly has one,* God the Father. (8:16-18)
- The Pharisees ask Jesus, "Where is your Father?" (8:19a)
 - Jesus replied that their failure to recognize him, the Son, demonstrated that **they do not know who God is.** (8:19b)
- Still they did not arrest him!! (8:20)

John 8:21-24

- 8:21さて、また彼らに言われた、「わたしは去って行く。あなたがたはわたしを捜し求めるであろう。そして自分の罪のうちに死ぬであろう。わたしの行く所には、あなたがたは来ることができない」。
- 8:22そこでユダヤ人たちは言った、「わたしの行く所に、あなたがたは来ることができないと、言ったのは、あるいは自殺でもしようとするつもりか」。

John 8:21-24

8:23イエスは彼らに言われた、「あなたがたは下から出た者だが、わたしは上からきた者である。あなたがたはこの世の者であるが、わたしはこの世の者ではない。

8:24だからわたしは、あなたがたは自分の罪のうちに死ぬであろうと、言ったのである。もしわたしがそういう者であることをあなたがたが信じなければ、罪のうちに死ぬことになるからである」。

John 8:21-24

- ²¹ So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come."
- ²² So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?"
- ²³ He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.
- ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."

John 8:21

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- This follows Jesus' teaching in the temple, around the end of the Feast of Tabernacles which we read last week.
- It is perhaps best to think of this as the continuation of that same teaching.

So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come."

 Jesus had just said that, by refusing to recognize Christ, the Pharisees demonstrated that they do not know God.

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- Jesus had just said that, by refusing to recognize Christ, the Pharisees demonstrated that they do not know God.
- Jesus now says, in effect, that he will soon return to God, and they will not be able to follow him there.

So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come."

Certainly it is true that few, if any, of the men to whom
Jesus was speaking could have immediately followed him
on the path that he soon would travel.

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 Jesus was speaking could have immediately followed him
 on the path that he soon would travel.
- But I am reminded of Luke 23:39-43.

So he said to them again, "I am going away, <u>and you will seek me</u>, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come."

- Jesus expected that, after he returned to heaven, some of the men with whom he was speaking, would seek him.
- What do you think Jesus meant by this?
- How will the seek Jesus?

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 - Forgiveness for Sin
 - Faith, Hope, Love, Truth, etc.

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- How will they find him?
 - Just as we did (by grace through faith).
 - Just as we will (beyond death, in life eternal)
- I am reminded of Matthew 7:7-8

John 8:21

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- All men (including Jesus) die in the physical sense, and in every case it has something to do with sin:
 - Jesus died as an atonement for the sins of others
 - Everyone else dies physically as the result of sin

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- However we know that Jesus arose from the dead.
- We know that many seek and find Jesus and eternal life.
- But sadly it seems that not everyone seeks and find him, and thus some men "die in their sin" in a different sense.

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- We know that this is something Jesus finally did, contrary to his natural human instinct, in perfect obedience to God.

So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?"

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- Ironically, it would be they who arranged his death.
- This Jesus who walked free among them for 3 ½ years would finally *allow* himself to be killed, for the salvation of many.

John 8:23

イエスは彼らに言われた、「あなたがたは下から出た者だが、わたしは上からきた者である。あなたがたはこの世の者であるが、わたしはこの世の者ではない。

He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

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He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

- They do not understand what he is saying because:
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 - While they are from below and of this world.

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- They do not understand what he is saying because:
 - he is from heaven and not of this world.
 - While they are from below and of this world.
- To escape death they must follow him into heaven

John 8:24

だからわたしは、あなたがたは自分の罪のうちに死ぬであろうと、 言ったのである。もしわたしがそういう者であることをあなたが たが信じなければ、罪のうちに死ぬことになるからである」。

I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."

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- Jesus previous statement (Verse 21) that they would "die in their sins," applies without exception to all who finally refused to believe that Jesus is who he says he is.
- But all who believe, will find eternal life.

John 8:25-29

8:25そこで彼らはイエスに言った、「あなたは、いったい、どういうかたですか」。イエスは彼らに言われた、「わたしがどういう者であるかは、初めからあなたがたに言っているではないか。

8:26あなたがたについて、わたしの言うべきこと、さばくべきことが、たくさんある。しかし、わたしをつかわされたかたは真実なかたである。わたしは、そのかたから聞いたままを世にむかって語るのである」。

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8:27彼らは、イエスが父について話しておられたことを悟らなかった。

8:28そこでイエスは言われた、「あなたがたが人の子を上げてしまった後はじめて、わたしがそういう者であること、また、わたしは自分からは何もせず、ただ父が教えて下さったままを話していたことが、わかってくるであろう。

John 8:25-29

8:29わたしをつかわされたかたは、わたしと一緒におられる。わたしは、いつも神のみこころにかなうことをしているから、わたしをひとり置きざりになさることはない」。

John 8:25-29

- ²⁵ So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning.
- ²⁶ I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him."
- ²⁷ They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.

John 8:25-29

²⁸ So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him."

John 8:25

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• Jesus has just said (v. 24), "...unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins"

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- They respond by asking him who he is.

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- They respond by asking him who he is.
- The first part of Jesus' answer is difficult to translate.

- But most of the modern translations have something similar to what we read in the ESV.
 - Jesus directs their attention to the answer they have already received, possibly going back to the VERY beginning.

John 8:26

あなたがたについて、わたしの言うべきこと、さばくべきことが、たくさんある。しかし、わたしをつかわされたかたは真実なかたである。わたしは、そのかたから聞いたままを世にむかって語るのである」。

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I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him."

• This is the continuation of the answer begun in Verse 25 to the question there put to Jesus: "Who are you?"

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- This is the continuation of the answer begun in Verse 25 of the question put to Jesus: "Who are you?"
- Jesus was a real human being with much to say on his own account, but he confines his teaching to God's word.

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They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.

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<u>They did not understand</u> that he had been speaking to them about the Father.

 Even today (with the risen Lord in Heaven and the Holy Spirit poured out into his Church) many fail to understand. 彼らは、イエスが父について話しておられたことを悟らなかった。

<u>They did not understand</u> that he had been speaking to them about the Father.

- Even today (with the risen Lord in Heaven and the Holy Spirit poured out into his Church) many fail to understand.
- I suppose their blindness was even greater then.

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 Despite all they had seen and heard, these men had still not understood that Jesus was sent by God, and spoke with God's authority.

So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

 But Jesus knew that some of them finally would understand, after they had "lifted him up."

So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

- The primary meaning of "lifted up" is "exalted."
 - Christ is exalted by those who believe on Him
 - And he teaches them all things concerning himself.

So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

 The cross is the premier symbol of Christ's exaltation, and it conveys another sense in which he will be "lifted up" by these men to whom he is presently talking.

John 8:29

わたしをつかわされたかたは、わたしと一緒におられる。わたしは、いつも神のみこころにかなうことをしているから、わたしをひとり置きざりになさることはない」。

And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him."

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And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him."

- Christ will finally be lifted up and exalted among men.
- He will be the Savior of many and Lord if the Church.
- Meanwhile he is not alone.