

Mysteries in the Gospel of John Season 9: Believers, Followers, and Disciples



Scripture

- **John 8:31-59**

So, Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. 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?’” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. So, if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore, you also do the things which you heard from your father. 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. 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. You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.” Jesus said to the, “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 He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. 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 a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason, you do not hear them, because you are not of God. The Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon? Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death. The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets also, and you say, ‘if anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.’”

“Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?” Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, “He is our God”; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad. So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you,

before Abraham was born, I am.” Therefore, they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

Other Scriptures

- John 4:22; 8:31; 11:47-49,53; 12:9-11; 15:19-20
- Matthew 16:24; 24:3-5,24-25
- James 2:19
- Genesis 12:1-4
- Romans 1:16
- John 8:23

Main Points

- Classes of Jesus’ followers
 - a. Seekers-those who came seeking miracles.
 - b. Believers-those who believed Jesus’s message but did not continue with Him.
 - c. Disciples-those who walked with Jesus and continued in His word.
- Are you on a quest to know God?
- We are truly disciples when we receive God’s word even when it is hard.

Discussion Questions

1. With whom was Jesus in dialogue in John chapter 8?
2. In this intense chapter, what 3 types of people attached themselves to Jesus?
3. Take a look at your own relationship with Jesus. In which class would you put yourself? Would you describe your journey as a quest to know God? What would need to change in order to make this true for you?
4. What is the true test of which type of believer we are?
5. Jesus declared that the religious leaders were listening to their father. Who was He saying they were listening too, and with this stunning declaration, what would be the next step they would seek to take?