

## **WHY DON'T YOU BELIEVE ME?**

John 8:37-47

Introduction:

### 1. They won't believe Jesus because ... They Have No Room for Jesus' Word (John 8:37)

#### A) Their Belief Structure has satisfied their religious hunger

- > They are the people of God by birth – the descendants of Abraham (John 8:33, 39)
- > They are the people of God by practice
- > They are in the temple of God ... the place where they have positions of authority and the center of their religious life

Jesus told a story that reveals the heart of these Jews (Luke 18:10-14)

#### B) And now Jesus Teaches

- > You who commit sin are enslaved by sin (John 8:34)
- > You may be the physical descendants of Abraham ... but that doesn't make you right with God (Romans 2:28-29)
- > You may be religious, even very religious ... but that doesn't make you righteous
- > The Problem

A self-righteous religious person has no room for an indictment of "sinner"

A self-righteous religious person has no need for a Savior

A self-righteous religious person has no room for even the thought that they aren't good enough for God

### 2. They won't believe Jesus because ... They are Following in Their Father's Footsteps (John 8:38-41)

#### A) Jesus distinguishes Himself from these Jews based upon their parental lineage

- > Jesus speaks what He has seen in the Father's presence (John 8:38a)
- > They do what they have seen in their Father (John 8:38b)

B) Are these Jews acting like their Father Abraham? (John 8:39-40)

- > They claim Abraham to be their father (John 8:39a)
- > Their actions do not line up with Abraham's actions

Abraham heard God's word and believed it (Genesis 15:1-6)

Abraham obeyed God (Genesis 22:10-14)

C) If they are not Abraham's children ... then whose?

- > Their defiant response to Jesus' word (John 8:41b)

We are not illegitimate children

Our Father is God (John 8:41c)

- > Jesus' definitive statement about their lineage

If God were their Father they would love His Son

3. They won't believe Jesus because ... They are Not Able to Hear what Jesus is Saying

A) Jesus gives a spiritual diagnosis that these Jews are not willing to accept (John 8:42-43)

- > They are in "spiritual denial"
- > They are sinners who are enslaved to sin (John 8:34)
- > They are sinners who are spiritually deaf and spiritually blind (Matthew 13:13-17)

B) This spiritual handicap requires Divine intervention (John 6:41-45)

- > Our prayer should be, "O God, give us ears to hear and eyes to see. Unstop our deaf ears and open our blind eyes that we might hear and see the truth."

C) Spiritual denial is a dangerous and potentially fatal status.

- > For an unbeliever – denying that you are a sinner in need of a Savior
- > For a believer – denying that you are using your spiritual freedom to play around with sin

And that sin may even be "enslaving" you again