

## Preparation

There are FOUR talks you can listen to on this theme this week:

1. Mike's talk at Breakfast@9 (approximately 11mins). <https://youtu.be/q1KFBWtsydg>
2. Mike's sermon at 10:30 <https://youtu.be/R6nlt48rxMQ>
3. Chris's sermon at the Lantern. <https://youtu.be/bYXNOjRFdYM>
4. Andrew's sermon at St B's. [https://youtu.be/yo5\\_9WQCxgQ](https://youtu.be/yo5_9WQCxgQ)

Take your pick – or watch all four – as the author of one of them I can say they're all brilliant! They give a slightly different perspective on this passage (just like the four gospels) as we begin a new sermon series across the whole parish of three church fellowships.

Read the passage first though. John 8:48-59 and then review the previous chapter and the one before that (Chapters 7 & 8). Jesus has been in a fierce debate with the religious leaders (called 'the Jews') and this passage is the climax of the confrontation.

## Questions

1. Why did Jesus return to Jerusalem at the beginning of Chapter 7, and what was the significance of the timing, i.e.. during the Feast of the Tabernacles.
2. Why were the Jews accusing Jesus of being 'a Samaritan' in the same breath as being demon possessed? (v.48)
3. What was so shocking about Jesus' claim 'if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death'? (v.51)
4. Jesus claims to be great than 'our father Abraham'. Why do you think the evangelist John contrasts in Jesus' Father in heaven and the Jews' father Abraham?
5. Who do you think you are? Is the question the Jews want answered, and yet, over the past two chapters, Jesus has made that very plain. What is Jesus doing when he says that Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing Jesus walking on the earth. Why is that such a great blasphemy in the eyes of the religious leaders? (v.50 and Exodus 3:6)
6. Why is it so shocking that Jesus says, 'before Abraham was born, I am!' (v.58 and see Exodus 3:14). Why did the Jews pick up rocks to stone Jesus?
7. How was it Jesus escaped? (v.59)

## Witness

John's gospel begins with declarations about Jesus (1:1) and ends with a similar one (20:31). But are we like Thomas, who found it hard to believe and therefore tell others? How can we have more confidence in our faith?