

## UPSIDE DOWN

John 8:21-30 / "Yeshua" §102

Phil de Martimprey

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Next Week: John 8:31-50 / §102

Part 1.	The Coming of the King
Part 2.	The Authentication of the King
Part 3.	The Controversy over the King
Part 4.	The Training of the Twelve by the King
Part 5.	The Opposition to the King
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Part 6.	The Preparation of the Disciples by the King
Part 7.	The Official Presentation of the King
Part 8.	The Preparation for the Death of the King
Part 9.	The Trial of the King:
Part 10.	The Death of the King
Part 11.	The Resurrection and the Ascension of the King

### A BLEAK TRUTH (JOHN 8:21, 24)

Jesus spoke plainly and clearly. These Pharisees were going to die in their sin. Lest there be any confusion, Jesus repeated this bleak truth two separate times. They would not be able to join Jesus where he was going. In the last section and this one, Jesus continued to reveal that he was from heaven, and from God the Father, and that he would return to heaven and God the Father. This Father / Son relationship is going to frame out our study for the next few sections as Jesus continues to publicly battle the Pharisees. He had revealed that they were not going to follow him, so I believe it is safe to assume that Jesus' dialogue with them was for the sake of all those who were listening. Even though Jesus was nearing the end of his earthly life, he was still looking for good soil where the truth could be planted and grow.

### THE REASONS WHY (JOHN 8:22-29)

In the Pharisee's responses to Jesus, we can clearly see why it was that they would "die in their sin. Their actions highlight a number of reasons why their final destination would not be with Jesus. **First, they were prideful mockers.** Their comment in v22 about Jesus committing suicide is clearly mockery. In Judaism, suicide was abhorred and considered the act of an insane person, which in some Rabbinical teaching would send the person to a place all alone in hades. They had no interest in discovering what Jesus meant, but rather, pridefully dismissed it outright.

Second, **these religious leaders were "of this world"**. Jesus made the contrast exceptionally clear. He was from above and not of this world, they were from below and of this world. He was the light (v12), from heaven, the Son of the Father, and leading people to life and freedom. They were in the darkness (John 1:5-11), from below, sons of the Devil (v44), and leading people toward destruction and slavery. Their lives could not have been more upside down from what God intended for them! This idea of being not of this world is repeated by Jesus later to describe his disciples (John 17:14). This world is not our source of truth, hope, life, or love. All of that comes down to us from the Father above, and for Jesus, this was a powerful and prominent truth that he wanted his disciples to understand and embrace.

Third, the Pharisees were so darkened in their thinking that **they simply would and could not understand what Jesus was talking about.** (v27) It didn't matter how many times and ways he explained it, they simply would not accept Jesus' words as the truth. It is striking that Jesus said to them that they would actually "know" he was the

Messiah when they “lift him up”. Yet, even though they would know who he was, they would still refuse to receive his words. It is a terrible thing to consider that one could “know” something to be a fact, and yet still not adjust their life to live in a way that the truth doesn't have any impact on their behavior. That they “knew”, had no bearing on their reception of Jesus. This is illustrated clearly to us after Jesus had risen from the grave, when the religious leaders got together, having heard that Jesus rose from the dead, paid a bribe to the guards to go and spread the lie that the disciples had stolen the body (Matt 28:11-15). What a blatant show of cognitive dissonance. They knew they were going to live and speak according to a lie.

### **AN ENCOURAGING RESPONSE (JOHN 8:30)**

This section closes with some good news. There are many who were listening to Jesus who “believed in him” as he was talking. It would seem that through his explanations, some of the Jews, including possibly some of the Pharisees, have believed that he is indeed the Messiah. However, we shouldn't get our hopes up too high. Next week we will look at how Jesus tests this belief and clearly see what the result is.

One thing that powerfully struck me in this section is a deep irony taking place in how the Pharisees are mocking and talking about Jesus, versus the actual reality of what Jesus is saying and doing. They seem to have it exactly upside down. They mockingly accuse Jesus of planning on taking his life, with his own hands, so that he will end up in a place where no one can be with him, *while in reality*, Jesus is talking about giving up his life, by their hands, so that ALL could be with him. They have it upside down and the price for this way of thinking could not be more severe.

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### **Grace Family Needs, News and Notes**

#### **Couples Movie Night! - Feb 13th @ 6:30pm in the Sanctuary**

\$10 per couple for snacks, to register, email  
[KIMBALL@GCCRAMONA.COM](mailto:KIMBALL@GCCRAMONA.COM),

#### **Grace Family Desert Camping Trip - February 26-28th.**

The Men's Ministry will host a dinner on Saturday night of that weekend. If you are interested in attending, please contact Al Lerma at [AMLERMATELCO@YAHOO.COM](mailto:AMLERMATELCO@YAHOO.COM) or call/text at 619-889-6892.