

Who is your Father?

From the movie:

*While our hero Luke
Skywalker dangles
precariously
he hears the voice of the
evil Darth Vader saying ...*

..... No!!



Who is your Father?

In real life:

Biological fatherhood (and family) can be

- very complicated
- immensely important
- deeply affecting (positively or negatively)
- but points to a deeper more eternal “spiritual fatherhood”, and spiritual family
- Ideal Father: Source of stability, trust, protection, guidance, strong selfless love, provision

➔ *The importance of the calling of human fatherhood*

➔ *The importance of being able to call God our Father*

➔ *Who is your father? Is God your Father? If you he isn't, can he become your Father?*

Who is your Father?

Popular “weakly Christian” idea

- BOMFOG
 - = “brotherhood of man, fatherhood of God”
- “we’re all brothers in God’s family” = weak, misleading
- “We all have God as our Father” = weak, misleading

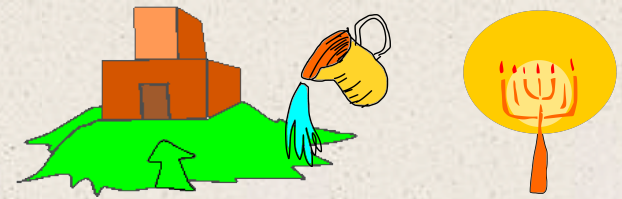
But the Bible does say that

- By nature we are NOT children of God
- By Jesus Christ we CAN BECOME children of God
- John 1:11 “receive Jesus ... become children of God”

So the question: who is your Father matters!

- ➔ To have God as your Father ... wonderfully precious
- ➔ to have the Evil One as your Father ... awful horror!
- ➔ study this passage together ...

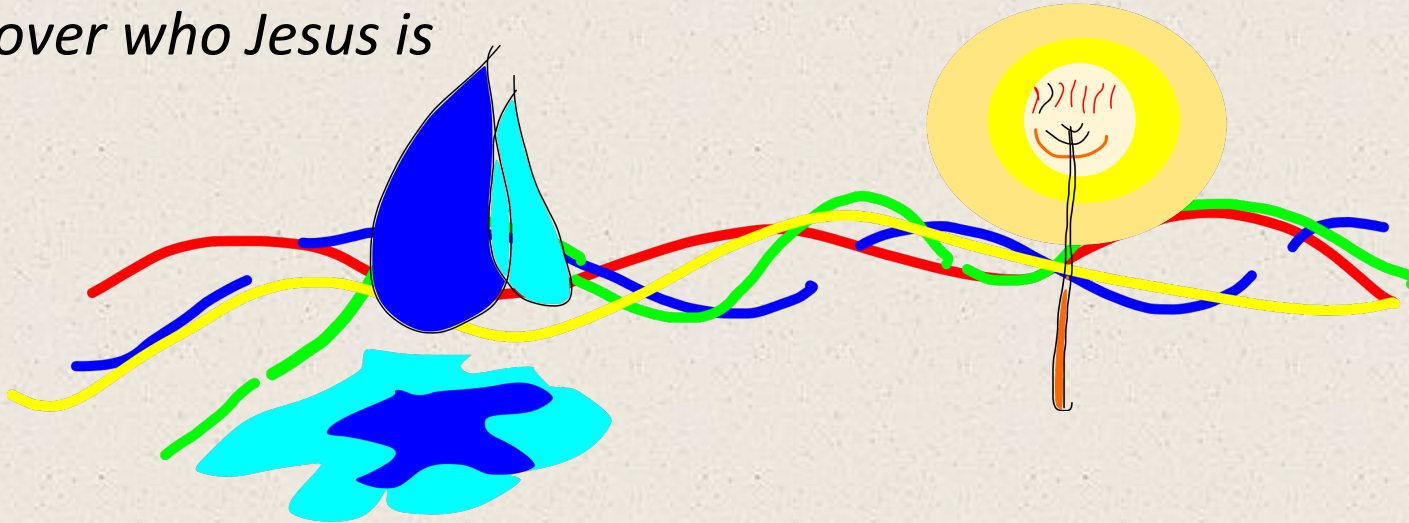
Who is Jesus?



Context: Jesus at the feast of Tabernacles (tents/lights/water), in Jerusalem:

The chapters 7+8 contain an *interwoven* [not like Paul] story of

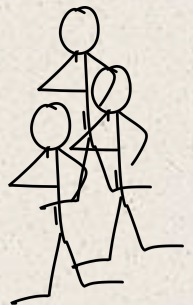
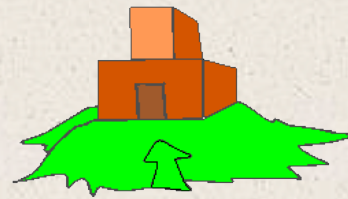
- *misunderstanding*, *confusion*, *division*
- *over who Jesus is*



PLUS: Two great claims and invitations

- 7:37 *If anyone is thirsty come and drink*
- 8:12 *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me ... will have the light of life"*

Who is your Father



The discussion/argument goes round on various topics but when we get to John 8 there is a lot about “Father”

It is a major strand of the whole gospel of John

8:15 “I and **the Father** who sent me”



Think about Fatherhood

Chapter 7 has _____ references to Father
Chapter 8 had _____ references to Father
(15)
(N.B. Chapter 14 has 17, chapter 5 has 13)

Suggestion that you can think of it this way for this passage:

Father

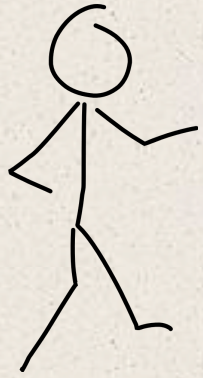


Communication
= talking and showing
e.g. how to say “mummy”
e.g. eating a boiled egg

v. 38 “seen ...heard from
father”

Son

Think about Fatherhood



Suggestion that you can think of it this way for this passage:

Father

Son



1. Communication

2. Imitation

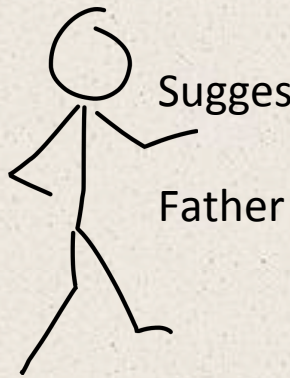
= acting like the father

e.g. cleaning teeth

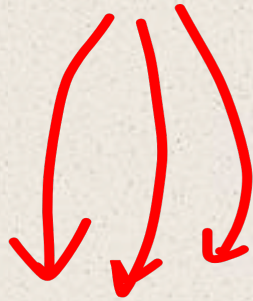
e.g. cleaning the car

v.39 doing the works
your father did

Think about Fatherhood



Suggestion that you can think of it this way for this passage:



Son



1. Communication

2. Imitation

3. Motivation

= liking the things the father likes, desires, goes for

e.g. football supporter

e.g. chocolate, beer

v.40 “you seek ...”

v.44 “your father’s desire”

There are also other things – action, affection ...



Who is your Father?

1. Jesus and his Father

2. The Jewish leaders and their father

➔ And whether or not this affects us

1. Jesus and his Father



1. Communication + 2 Imitation

- *5:19 the Son can do nothing of himself, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise*
- *7:16 “my teaching is not mine, but his who sent me”*
- *8:28 “I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father has taught me ...”*
- *8:38 “I speak what I have seen with my Father ...”*
- ➔ The beautiful and glorious communication by which the Almighty Father communicates to the Son what he is doing, and Jesus does, teaches, speaks exactly the will of the Father

1. Jesus and his Father



3. Motivation

- *v.42 “he sent me” = intention, purpose, plan, desire*
 - *3:17 “... God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him”*
- ➔ Motivation = to save
- ➔ cause of immense hope and thanks!

1. Jesus and his Father



3. Motivation

- *v.50 “he seeks my glory”*
- *v.54 “my Father who glorifies me”*
- *17:1 “glorify your Son that your Son may glorify you”*

- ➔ Motivation = to make Jesus seem glorious and splendid
- ➔ the Father’s heartfelt desire
- ➔ E.g. that’s why parents love to go to sports day, prize day, graduation day
- ➔ would you agree?

2. *The Jews and their Father*

N.B. the Jews are not believing Jesus, they are denying that he is the Christ

They claim Abraham as their father

- *v. 39 “Abraham is our Father*

i.e. our genetic claim secures our spiritual claim
BUT Jesus says “No”

- *v.39 [imitation] you would do the works Abraham did ...*

e.g. man of faith – so he stepped out in faith

e.g. justified by faith – believed promises

- *v.38 [imitation/communication] you do what you have heard from your father*

= seek to kill me [motivation]

➔ Implies who their real father is



2. The Jews and their Father

- They deny that Jesus is the Christ
- They are planning to kill Jesus

They **first** claim Abraham as their father

Based on genetics they then claim God as their father

- *v.41 we were not born of immorality*
- *v.41 we have one Father = God*

Jesus says that they actually show a different spiritual paternity

- *v.44 [motivation] your will is to do your father's desires*
- *v.44 [imitation] he is a murderer ... he is a liar*
- *v.44 you are of your father the devil*

➔ Worse than Luke Skywalker!

➔ lostness and hopelessness of having this paternity



2. *The Jews and their Father*

- They deny that Jesus is the Christ -
- They are planning to kill Jesus
- So Jesus says their father is Satan
- Is it just them? Is this a primitive and misguided anti-semitic superstition?



Lying like their father

- *1 John 2:22 who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ ...*

- ➔ Our whole culture denies that Jesus is the Christ
- ➔ Do you believe Jesus is the Christ?

2. *The Jews and their Father*

- They deny that Jesus is the Christ -
- They are planning to kill Jesus
- Jesus says their father is Satan
- Is it just them? Is this a primitive and misguided anti-semitic superstition?



Murder like their father

- 1 John 3:11-15 *“everyone who hates his brother is a murderer” “love the brothers...”* v.14



Q: do you love the believing brothers?

Or hate (= reject, not bother with – n.b. assembling together is a tell-tale sign)

- If being a Christian was a crime, on the basis of “loving the brothers” would there be enough evidence to convict you

Who is your Father

Father/Son relationship as

- communication,
- imitation,
- motivation

Looking at Jesus – communication/imitation

the Father shows all he does,

Jesus speaks and acts exactly as the Father

- motivation: Father sent him to save ... and desires to glorify Jesus

Looking at the Jews who opposed him (C,I,M)

- who lied, denying he is the Christ
- and rejected him, as murderers
- today a family of liars, and rejecters
- they too are children of the Devil

BUT that can all change through Jesus

- Jesus paid the price for a huge adoption process when he died on the cross. To receive him is to receive power to become children of God



Who is your Father?

From the movie:



*Good news for Luke
Skywalker ... and us ...*

“Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” John 3:5

“to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but born of God” John 1:12