

12. Then Jesus spoke out again, "I am the light of the world! The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
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25. So they said to him, "Who are you?"
Jesus replied, "What I have told you from the beginning. ²⁶I have many things to say and to judge about you, but the **Father** who sent me is **truthful**, and the things I have heard from him I speak to the world."
²⁷(They did not understand that he was telling them about his **Father**.)
28. Then Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and I do nothing on my own initiative, but I speak just what the **Father** taught me. ²⁹And the one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do those things that please him."
30. While he was saying these things, many people believed in him.

The Truth sets God's Children free

31. Then Jesus said to those Judeans who had believed him, "If you abide in my word [continue to follow my teaching], you are really my disciples ³²and you will know the **truth**, and the **truth** will set you **free**."
33. "We are descendants of **Abraham**," they replied, "and have never been anyone's **slaves**! How can you say, 'You will become **free**'?"
34. Jesus answered them, "I tell you the solemn truth, everyone who practices sin is a **slave** of sin. ³⁵The **slave** does not remain in the family forever, but the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the son sets you **free**, you will be really **free**."
37. I know that you are **Abraham's** descendants. But you want to kill me, because **my word has no place in you**. ³⁸I am telling you the things I have seen while with the **Father**; you practice the things you have heard from your **Father**!"
39. They answered him, "**Abraham** is our **father**!"
Jesus replied, "If you are **Abraham's** children, you would be **doing the deeds of Abraham**,
40. But now you are trying to kill me,
a man who has told you the **truth** I heard from God.
Abraham did not do this!
41. You people are **doing the deeds of** your **father**."
Then they said to Jesus, "We were not born as a result of immorality! We have only one **Father**, God himself."
42. Jesus replied, "If God were your **Father**, you would love me, for I have come from God and am now here. I have not come on my own initiative, but he sent me. ⁴³Why don't you understand what I am saying? It is because **you cannot accept my word**."
44. You people are from your father the devil, and you want to do what your father desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not uphold the **truth**, because there is no **truth** in him. Whenever he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵But because I am telling you the **truth**, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶Who among you can prove me guilty of any sin?
- If I am telling you the **truth**, why don't you believe me? ⁴⁷The one who belongs to God listens and responds to God's words. You don't listen and respond, because you don't belong to God."

Before Abraham, "I am"

48. **The Judeans** replied, "Aren't we correct in saying that you are a Samaritan and are possessed by a demon?"
49. **Jesus** answered, "I am not possessed by a demon, but I honor my **Father**—and yet you dishonor me. ⁵⁰I am not trying to get praise for myself. There is one who demands it, and he also judges. ⁵¹I tell you the solemn truth, if anyone keeps my word [follows my teaching], he will never see death."
52. Then **the Judeans** responded, "Now we know you're possessed by a demon! Both **Abraham** and the prophets died, and yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never experience death.' ⁵³You aren't greater than our father **Abraham** who died, are you? And the prophets died too! Who do you claim to be?"
54. **Jesus** replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory is worthless. The one who glorifies me is my **Father**, about whom you people say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵Yet you do not know him, but I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father **Abraham** was overjoyed to see my day, and he saw it and was glad."
57. Then **the Judeans** replied, "You are not yet fifty years old! Have you seen **Abraham**?"
58. **Jesus** said to them, "I tell you the solemn truth, before **Abraham** came into existence, I am!"
59. Then **they picked up stones** to throw at him,
but **Jesus was hidden** from them and went out from the temple area.

