

On Jesus' Parentage

³⁹ “‘Abraham is our father.’ Translation: ‘We are sure of our religious heritage. We are sure of the truth. We know who we are. We’re in the club. Our card has been stamped. We’ve got the history and the name and the pedigree. We know ourselves. You we do not know. Abraham is our father.’ They are talking about their origins. Abraham is their earthly father, their earthly origin. And, since Abraham was God’s man, they assume their biological pedigree assures their right standing before God. They think they know who their father is, but they do not.” Wyman Richardson, <https://www.walkingtogetherministries.com/2011/08/14/john-839-59/>

A section from the *Toledot Yeshu* (the "Life Story of Jesus")

It came to pass after these things that the wicked one [Jesus] played with the lads outside, as lads playing together are wont to do. The wicked one angered the lads with his playing. The lads said unto him: “Bastard, son of a menstruant! You think you are the son of Johanan? You are not his son, but the son of Joseph Pandera, who bedded your mother in her menses and sired you, evil begotten by evil.” Whereupon hearing these words the wicked one ran to his house, to his mother, fuming, and let out a great and embittered cry, uttering: “Mother! Mother! Tell me the truth straightaway. When I was little, the children used to say that I am a bastard, son of a menstruant, but I thought it a tease. But now the lads, all as one, hoot at me, day in and day out: ‘Bastard, son of a menstruant!’ They tell me that I am the son of Joseph Pandera, who came unto you in your menses.”

JOHN 8:12-30

NARRATOR: ¹² Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,

JESUS: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

PHARISEES: ¹³ “You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid.”

JESUS: ¹⁴ “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵ You judge by human standards; I judge no one. ¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid, for it is not I alone who judge but I and the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. ¹⁸ I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.”

PHARISEES: ¹⁹ “Where is your Father?”

JESUS: “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

NARRATOR: ²⁰ He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

JESUS: ²¹ “I am going away, and you will search for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.”

CROWD: ²² “Is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by saying, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come’?”

JESUS: ²³ “You are from below, I am from above; you are from this world, I am not from this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he.”

CROWD: ²⁵ “Who are you?”

JESUS: And Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. [1] ²⁶ I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but he who sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from him.”

NARRATOR: ²⁷ They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father.

JESUS: ²⁸ “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. ²⁹ And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him.”

NARRATOR: ³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

JOHN 8:31-47

NARRATOR:³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him. Then Jesus spoke to the Jews who believed him.

JESUS:³¹ “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

CROWD:³³ “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

JESUS:³⁴ “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever.³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.³⁷ I know that you are descendants of Abraham, yet you look for an opportunity to kill me because there is no place in you for my word.[2]³⁸ I declare what I have seen in the Father’s presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.”

CROWD:³⁹ “Abraham is our father.”

JESUS: “If you are Abraham’s children, you would do what Abraham did,⁴⁰ but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.⁴¹ You are indeed doing what your father does.”

CROWD: “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father, God himself.”[3]

JESUS: “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God, and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me.⁴³ Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word.⁴⁴ You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.⁴⁶ Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?⁴⁷ Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God.”

JOHN 8:48-59

CROWD:⁴⁸ “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

JESUS:⁴⁹ “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me.⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.⁵¹ Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death.”

JOHN 8:48-59 (continued)

CROWD:⁵² “Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets, yet you say, ‘Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.’⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. *Who are you?*”

JESUS:⁵⁴ “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, ‘He is our God,’⁵⁵ though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I keep his word.⁵⁶ Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad.”

CROWD:⁵⁷ “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?”

JESUS:⁵⁸ “Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.”

NARRATOR:⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

YOU DECIDE

[1]John 8:25

NRSVUE: “Why do I speak to you at all? (²⁶*I have much to say about you and much to **condemn***, but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.*”)

NKJV: And Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. (²⁶*I have many things to say and to **judge*** concerning you, but he who sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from him.*”) *κρίνω (krinō) to judge

GREEK: "Who/Which I am speaking you beginning/origin/authority"

[2]John 8:37

NRSVUE: "because there is no place in you for my word."

NKJV: "...because My word has no place in you."

GREEK: "Because/for word my not 'finds no place,' or 'has no room,' or 'cannot enter' in you/among you."

[3]John 8:41

NRSVUE: “We are not illegitimate children; we have one Father, God himself.”

NKJV: “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.”

GREEK: "We fornication not have been born; one father we have God."
