

# John 8:12–59

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BIG SANDY, Texas—In the 7th chapter of John, Jesus and His disciples went to Jerusalem to observe the Feast of Tabernacles (verses 8-10). He began teaching in the temple in the middle of the Feast (verse 14).

Many Christians believe that some of the instructions that Jesus gave at the end of the Feast are found in John 8, 9 and 10.

This week, let’s notice John 8:12-59.

## **Christ often avoided responding**

Many believers have been under a false impression that Christ never responded to His accusers. This conclusion is often based on two facts.

- Jesus famously kept quiet when questioned by some leaders just prior to His death.
- Peter wrote: “When He was reviled, He did not revile back” (1 Peter 2:23).

Believers truly accept that Jesus Christ of Nazareth set the example about how to deal with false accusations.

- Oftentimes, He did not answer back.
- And, when He did answer back, He did it correctly.

One of the greatest exchanges that the perfect Christ had with His religious tormentors occurred in John 8. I recommend that you read the entire account in context.

## **Questioning Christ’s credibility**

Shortly after the incident when Jesus publicly humiliated the Pharisees who sought to trap Him (John 8:1-11), they tried again.

They began a dialogue in an effort to discredit Him (verses 12-59).

Here are some of the comments they made.

- *Verse 13:* “You are the only one speaking for Yourself, and what You say isn’t true.”

- *Verse 19*: "Where is Your father?"
- *Verse 39*: "Abraham is our father."
- *Verse 41*: "We are not bastards."
- *Verse 48*: "Weren't we right to say that You are a Samaritan and that You have a demon in You?"
- *Verse 53*: "Are You greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think You are?"

### **Strong words**

Now let's consider some of the strong words that Jesus said.

- *Verse 19*: "You don't know Me, nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father."
- *Verse 39*: "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham."
- *Verse 44*: "You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning. He did not abide in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own. He is a liar and the father of lies."
- *Verse 58*: "Before Abraham was, I am."

When we read the Bible, we cannot absolutely know the exact tone in which the words were spoken. Thereby, we don't absolutely know the manner in which Jesus spoke the words mentioned above.

However, we can recognize two things.

- No matter how calmly Jesus spoke these words, the words by themselves were powerful.
- The audience reacted.

### **Reacted with violence**

And how did the people react to Christ's words? They took up stones to throw at Him (verse 59).

Thankfully, Jesus hid among the people and got out of the temple unscathed (also verse 59).