

Ears that Are Deaf to the Lies of This World
John 8:42-44

In this text, Jesus is conversing with some Jews who are rejecting what He's teaching. However, these Jews feel confident that they are truly the children of God because "they descend from Abraham." It's a little like a person thinking "I'm a Christian," while paying no attention to what Jesus teaches. Jesus states why people don't listen to and believe what He says; they are children of the father of lies (the devil).

- I. If God is your Father, you love the Lord Jesus** – "If God were your father, you would love Me" (v. 42). We may differ on many points. But in this one thing every true child of God is like every other child of God: — **"We love Him."** We do not love Him as we desire. We do not love Him as we know we should. We do not love Him as we soon shall. But we really do love our blessed Savior.
- A. It's not possible for someone to experience God's grace and not love the God of all grace.
 - B. It's not possible for someone to know the power of Christ's cross and not love his gracious Redeemer.
 - C. It's not possible for a man to be renewed by the power of the Spirit and not love the Spirit of life. *"Lord, you know all things; you know that I love You"* (John 21:17). – Then take care of His people.

- II. If God is your Father, you hear Christ's voice** – "Why do you not understand what I'm saying?" (v. 43). When the God of all grace fills you, the voice of Christ speaks to you – and you hear Him so very clearly. "The Shepherd goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow Him because they know His voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they will follow me" (John 10:4-5, 27). There may be a time when a sheep goes astray, but the Shepherd breaks the leg and holds the sheep close. A breaking-leg experience is painful, but beneficial; it is never wanted, but it is always needed.

"But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Corinthians 2:14). The natural man is the person without the Spirit of God; and the word foolishness here comes from the word "moros" in Greek from which we get the word "moronic." It's the same word that Jesus uses for "salt without savor" (tasteless) which is "good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled" (Matt. 5:13).

- III. If God is your Father, you are deaf to the world's lies** – "You belong to your father...he is a liar" (v. 44). When grace gets a hold of you, your ears become deaf to the lies of the one who once held you captive.
- 1. What is most important is how I feel.**
That's a lie. What matters most is who I am. Emotions flow from comprehension of the truth. A misapprehension of who I am in Christ leads to maladjustments in this life.
 - 2. I need it even if I can't afford it.**
"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave" (Prov. 22:7).
 - 3. If it is legal then it must be moral.**
This isn't so. "All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial" (I Corinthians 10:13).
 - 4. What matters most is my material success.**
This is a very dramatic lie. "Do not be anxious about what you eat or drink or wear. Seek first Christ's Kingdom and everything you needed will be given to you" (Matthew 6:33).