

Discussion questions – January 4 – John’s gospel – we look at 8:48-59

Welcome everyone back and Happy New Year, welcome any guests...

1. How has God’s Word impacted your life this week?
2. How is everyone doing this week? Any new challenges? How have they seen God at work? (make this a regular feature, nothing encourages like reports of what God is doing in our lives.)
3. Any follow up or carry over from our last lesson?
4. What one point resonated with you from the lesson this morning? What stands out the most to you from this lesson?

5. What’s something you’re thankful for as you look back on 2025? What’s one goal you have for 2026?
6. How would you answer the opening question that Carlon asked in quoting Carl Trueman, “are evangelical leaders as courageous as JK Rowling”? thinking in terms of the controversial issues of our day. Why did you answer as you did?
7. When you consider how Jesus was treated in his day, even by the religious leaders, his supposed illegitimacy, his being called crazy, even demonized...how do you suppose the disciples felt to hear and see Jesus treated that way? Are you ever around people who have similar disregard for Jesus or spiritual things? Christianity in particular? What can we learn from Jesus about how we respond to those who attack Christ and Christianity and us? How do we balance boldness in the face of extreme personal attacks and do so with a gracious spirit? Is there a time when it’s best to not respond? How do you know when that time is?
8. If Jesus were to come to earth as a man today and confront the religions of the world, how do you think he’d be received? Why?
9. Jesus made some amazing claims – none more amazing than “keep my word and never die”. How does this promise change everything about how as a Christian we view death? What are some of the very practical ways this promise impacts how we face death? (Are there traditions and practices that Christians should reconsider in terms of how we deal with death? Thinking in very practical terms: for instance, what about viewing the body? The person is no longer there. Do you think that is helpful? Be sensitive to other people’s experiences and views as you discuss)
10. Just as Abraham rejoiced to see Jesus’ coming day, we can also rejoice to see the day of his return. How can we cultivate that hope? What are some practical ways we can live in the light of his return in this coming new year?

What we take away...

The most loving thing we can do for anyone is to tell them the truth about Jesus, sin and the judgment to come