



**SERIES: John Believe**  
**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**  
**Wednesday, February 1, 2023**  
**Scripture: John 8:48-53**  
**TITLE: Keep His Word**

Have you ever signed a code of conduct agreement for an employer? Virtually all jobs require someone to read the employee handbook and sign off on it. It's important to know what is and is not required or expected to do the job well. And if someone doesn't abide by that handbook, often a quick dismissal is likely.

Well, Jesus gave a similar "code of conduct" talk in John 8. Let's pick up the conversation between Jesus and the Jewish leaders in John 8:48-53.

The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?"

In case you missed the last few days, Jesus has been dialoguing with the Jewish leaders about the true children of Abraham. That's a foreign concept for us today. But for the Jews 2,000 years ago, this was a big deal. They believed their lineage gave them a leg up with God. And their leg up with God was enhanced, or so they thought, by their religious rituals. But Jesus has told them they are completely wrong. First, their lineage is meaningless to God. It won't save them or get them one step closer. And then, Jesus says, when born, people are estranged from God. They are children of Satan.

So you can see, Jesus has not read the book "How to win friends and influence people." But Jesus didn't come to glorify Himself. He came so that God would be glorified. He came so people would have peace with God.

And then, in verse 51, Jesus says, "if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." In verse 31, Jesus says, "remain in my word." This was His employee handbook talk. This idea is consistent throughout Jesus' teaching and the teaching of the Bible. When we become God's spiritual child through the work of Christ, we are a soul saved and a life changed.

In other words, you cannot identify as a follower of Christ but live like a follower of Satan. The process of life transformation is called sanctification. And it is truly a process. And it's powered by God's Spirit and built on God's Word. This is called the power of 4. When a person engages in

God's Word 4 or more times per week, it will lead to life transformation. So, Jesus' challenge for us is to look at Him, study His Word, and allow God to use it to shape us each and every day.

Jesus was and is greater than Abraham because Jesus is God. He can be trusted. He is perfect in every way.

So today, keep His Word. Remain in His Word. When you do, you will win the day!