

## “Paternity Test!”

### I. **INTRO:**

- A. John Uriarte (Operation Military Assist); Frank Chaput (Mstr Gunnery Srgt USMC Retired)
- B. **Memorial Day** = *a day to honor those who have fought and died for our freedom.*
- C. **For many Americans**, Memorial Day means the 1st 3-day weekend of summer filled with bbq's/picnics w/family & friends, **or** going to the hardware store for some project.
- D. **For other Americans**, the day is **sacred**. A time to pay tribute to fallen war heroes. They feel the impact of a soldier's name you might casually glance at in your local newspaper. That name is their mom or dad, aunt or uncle, brother or sister, daughter or son.
  - 1. No matter what your **view is on war**, it is important to **honor** U.S. soldiers who have paid the ultimate price!
  - 2. So before we light our grills & grab our hammers, let's pause to remember those **bravehearts** who died to protect our freedoms - including our freedom to worship God freely today.
    - a) Abraham Lincoln said, *Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure.*
- E. We would like to **recognize, honor, & pray** for...
  - 1. Families who have **had a family member killed** while serving in the US armed forces...**please stand & remain standing!**
  - 2. Families who **currently have a family member serving** in the US armed forces...**please stand & remain standing!**
  - 3. Anyone who is **presently serving** or who **has served** in the US armed forces...**please stand & remain standing! {Let's pray}**
- F. We come w/hearts filled w/gratitude & appreciation for those who have **served in the past**. We pray for **protection** and **peace, courage & strength** for those who **serve now**. We pray for **military families**: **for** the **sacrifices they make** in the time spent away from their soldier; **for** the families to have a double portion of **strength, courage & blessings**.
- G. **Intro Story** - Did you hear last week the news headlines: *“Baby Girls Switched at Birth: Truth Comes Out 56 Years Later”*?
  - 1. In 1953 2 baby girls(*Kay Rene Reed Qualls & DeeAnn Angell Shafer*) were born in Pioneer Hospital in eastern Oregon. They grew up happily, got married, had kids of their own & became grandparents. Then last summer their lives were turned upside down.

2. They were **mistakenly switched at birth**, when the nurses bathed the 2 bald, 6 pound babies, somehow mixing them up in the bath water and returned the babies to the wrong mothers.
3. Everything changed one day when an 86-year old woman residing in a nursing home, phoned Kay Rene's brother, **Bobby Reed** asking to see him, because she had something to get off her chest.
  - a) **Can you imagine living for 56 years only to find out you're in the wrong family? Happens all the time spiritually!** Most people think they are automatically born into God's family, & only if they are "*really bad*" then they might be removed. **But actually, the opposite is true.** No one is born into God's family automatically, You must be born a 2nd time. Entering His family is a choice.

## II. **PATERNITY TEST!**

- A. **MY DAD CAN BEAT UP YOUR DAD!** (37-47)
- B. (37) Remember the Sunday School song, *Father Abraham had many Seeds/Sons?*
  1. This section is concerned with **the real meaning of parentage**.
  2. **Jesus makes a distinction between Abraham's fleshly seed (37) & Abraham's spiritual children (39).**
- C. **My Word has no place in you** - :-( (NIV) *you have no room for my word*.
  1. (Message Bible) *my message hasn't yet penetrated your thick skulls*.
  2. **Does His word have a place in you? Have residence in you?**
    - a) Big difference between a temp shelter & permanent residence.
- D. (44) If **Satan** becomes your father, **hell** will be your home.
  1. **The Jewish officials** could trace their **lineage** back to Abraham, but their **spiritual lineage** goes all the way back to **the Devil himself!**<sup>1</sup>
    - a) The **serpent of old** had enticed them away from the true God **with the seductive apple of religiosity**.
    - b) But under the Devil's clerical garb, he is both a **murderer** & a **liar**. **And, like father, like son**. They twisted the **truth** about Jesus & were plotting to **kill Him**(40).
- E. **WHO DO YOU MAKE YOURSELF OUT TO BE?** (48-59)
- F. (51) **Never see death** - **So, what did He mean?** (i.e. Never know the experience of that death, which is God's judgment on sin) - **Read 5:24**.
- G. (55) **Liar** - you guys are a chip off the ol' block! (44)

<sup>1</sup> Chuck Swindoll; John; pg.36

- H. (56) **How did Abraham see Jesus' day?** - Abraham in faith saw ahead to the day of Christ's incarnation, & anticipated His saving work.<sup>2</sup>
- I. (58) **Jesus gives one of the most important answers to any question posed to Him in the gospel of John.** (from vs.53b **Who do You make Yourself out to be?**)
1. The only other time the phrase "**I AM**" was used to describe someone was in Ex.3:14, where God claimed that name for Himself.
    - a) No identity statement could be clearer.
    - b) Jesus claimed to be God Himself in human form.
- J. **I Am** - the divine name as in Ex.3 (read vs.13-15)
1. Perhaps Moses knew of God as the ***distant Sovereign***, but not as the ***immanent God*** who **cares for & loves** His chosen ones.
  2. This is God's self-identification, He names Himself! **It is the announcement of a present God.** [**YHWH-Jehovah-Yahweh** (*Tetragrammaton*)]
    - a) It was held by the **later Jews** to be **so sacred** that it was **never pronounced** except by the high priest on the great Day of Atonement. **Whenever** this name occurred they pronounced it, as they still do, "**Adonai**" (i.e., **Lord**), thus using another word in its stead.
  3. The title God gives Himself is one of **wondrous significance**.<sup>3</sup>
  4. It is God's personality. (ἐγώ εἰμι)
    - a) Over the veiled statue of the **Egyptian Isis** was the famous inscription, "**I am the thing that is, & was, & shall be.**" **But to Israel** God was a living personality, distinct from all other beings & things, & transcendent above them -**not it, but He!**<sup>4</sup>
    - b) **When He says, *I AM*, it encompasses them all!** He is the ***always-present God***.
      - (1) **Jehovah** in taking this title, was providing His people w/a **blank check**, to be **filled up to any amount!**
  5. When you trace your finger across the pages of the OT, you'll find ***the names of God*** are ***intimately connected*** with the ***various needs*** of those whom He was in relation with.
    - a) **Jehovah-jireh** (the Lord will Provide/**given by Abr**, ram caught in thicket);  
**Jehovah-nissi** (the Lord my banner/**given by Moses**, after defeat Amalekites, lifted arms);  
**Jehovah-shalom** (the Lord send peace/**given by Gideon** at altar where Angel appeared);  
**Jehovah-shammah** (the Lord is there/**given by Ezek** for Jerusalem).  
**Jehovah-tsidkenu** (the Lord our righteousness/**given by Jeremiah** name for Messiah).
    - b) All of these ***gracious titles*** were unfolded to meet the needs of His people.

<sup>2</sup> Search The Scriptures; Jn.8:30-59; Bottom Notes.

<sup>3</sup> This next section, portions are adapted from C.H. Macintosh Notes on Exodus; pg.52

<sup>4</sup> F.B.Meyer; Exodus; Vol.1; pg.50

- K. If we want life, Christ says, *I AM the life*; If we want righteousness, *He is, the Lord our Righteousness*; If we want peace, *He is our Peace*; if we want wisdom, sanctification, & redemption, He is made all these unto us.
1. What a profound & adorable name.. **I AM!**
  2. **Every** believer can rejoice in these words falling from Jesus lips...
- L. **I AM the Bread of Life** (to satisfy your deep spiritual needs); **I AM the Light of the world** (so you don't have to walk in darkness); **I AM the Door** (to those seeking entrance); **I AM the Good Shepherd** (to all sheep who have lost their way); **I AM the Res & the Life** (to those desiring true life, before & after death); **I AM the Way, Truth, Life** (to those who desire direction, wisdom, & the abundant life); **I AM the True Vine** (to those branches that will remain attached) (Then in Rev) **I AM the Alpha & Omega** (& everything in between); **I AM the Bright & Morning Star** (to those that need a beginning of *a bright new day!*)
- M. Jesus made it clear: **His origin** was divine(42); **His mission** was God planned(40); **His purpose** was God willed(55). **His claim** was God Himself(58)!
- N. (59) The Jews did not respond with **words** but picked up **stones** to kill Him for blasphemy. (*That's how blasphemy was dealt with*)
1. **But it was not up to the crowd to determine the timing of Jesus' death!**
- O. So, Have you taken a **Paternity Test**?
- P. 1 Jn.3:10 **In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.**
1. We normally think of **devil children** as, "Rosemary's baby, Damien in *The Omen*, or Linda Blair in *The Exorcist*". But the bible places all **unbelievers** in that category.
  2. **Children of the devil don't represent grossly immoral people; they represent self-righteous religious people, who are deluded into an outward form of godliness that lacks power of the gospel.**
  3. John already established we are **born into** God's family as one of His children **not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God** (1:13) - *not by pedigree, proximity, or credentials.*
  4. **So, Who's your Father?**
- Q. To take a **Paternity Test** this morning. Simply submit yourself to a **DNA** testing.
1. **D**ie to self; **N**ip **sin** in the bud; **A**ccept Christ as Lord & Savior.
  2. **Your 2 choices: cast stones or cast yourself** at the feet of Jesus!