

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

②1 Re-Think of Gospel

INTRODUCTION | I Am Who I Am

Jesus, who spread the message of God, was subjected to harsh criticism from the Jews. There are times when we too, are troubled by unreasonable criticism and bad comments from others. How did Jesus handle these situations? In today's passage, we will look at Jesus' attitude of humility, one's repute among people, and the identity of Jesus who declared, "I am who I am". If we were to walk with our faith placed upon the Word of Jesus, we will surely be able to face times of hardship with boldness and humility.

SCRIPTURE | John 8:48-59 (ESV)

48 The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" 49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. 50 Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. 51 Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." 52 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.'" 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" 54 Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'" 55 But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." 57 So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" 58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." 59 So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

QUESTIONS |

- 1: (v. 48, 52-53, 57) Jesus continued to communicate the truth, yet he was criticised by the Jews. What kind of criticism was it?
- 2: What kind of attitude did Jesus show in the face of Jewish criticism?
- 3: Have you ever experienced situations when you felt you were unfairly criticised in an unreasonable manner? According to Jesus, how should we handle these kinds of situations? (Ref. Romans 12:19-21)
- 4: What reputation did Jesus have among the people? What do you think people thought of Him today?
- 5: (v. 51, 58) What is Jesus' key message in this passage of scripture? Let's think about the identity of Jesus and the influence Jesus has made in our lives. (Ref. Exodus 3:14)
- 6: If you were to accept Jesus' words, have faith in them and receive peace and assurance from them, how would your reactions to the judgment of others and your daily walk change?

REFERENCES |

Romans 12:19-21

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Exodus 3:14

14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

PRAYER |

- Jesus the Son of God didn't just become a person like us, but he won our salvation in the face of harsh criticism and trials, and paid the price so that we could be blessed. Let's give thanks to Jesus today. When we experience criticism that is unreasonable, let's choose to rely on Jesus, who went through the same experience.

- Many people say anything they want about Jesus. If we get thrown off by their judgments and comments, and become unable to trust in the Word, let's repent. Jesus has Himself paid the price and given us forgiveness from sin and eternal life.

UPCOMING EVENTS | This Week & Next Week

Change of time for Worship service on 21st June → Starts from 2pm @ Hamarikyuu Asahi Hall (small)

Lunchtime meetings

(16@Akasaka; 17@Kasumigaseki 18@Otemachi; 23@Jinbocho, 24@Marunouchi, 25@Otemachi)

Bento project (20)

Grace City Gospel Choir (22)