**BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM**

**John 8:48-59**

At the end of the message last week we saw Jesus clearly pointing to His listeners, His antagonists and identifying their lack of belief and **why** they did not believe. They were of their father the devil.

Are we ready today to hear and change, as God speaks to us through His Word?

**I-Truly, Truly, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death**- v.48-53

 Jesus has been telling His listeners that He is their light and that the truth of His words can

 set them free from sin and death. They will not accept this word.

 Jesus asked a rhetorical question in v. 46, ‘Which one of you convicts me of sin?’

 He is not asking if they accused Him. Many had accused Him but none could convict Him in

 the court of heaven.

 They accused Him of being a Samaritan and of having a demon.

 He says that the judge is not these Jews or earthly courts but rather the Father who will

 ultimately judge in heaven.

**II-It is my Father who glorifies me-** v.54-59

 It is our responsibility to glorify our Savior. Colossians 3-

 Colossians 3:1 ‘If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above..’

 In the Gospel according to John, knowledge of God cannot be separated from obedience to

 God.

 ‘If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing.’ v.54 ‘It is my Father who glorifies me.’

 In v.56, Jesus carefully describes Abraham as your father.

 At the end of chapter 8, Jesus says, ‘Truly, Truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’

 He was claiming that He was Messiah and they knew it.

**III-Why do people reject the Messiah?**

1. A lack of knowledge- v.14

 Some have never heard the word of salvation while others have been told the wrong

 things.

1. A lack of perception- v.15, 23

Some are caught up with the world’s way of thinking.

1. A lack of appropriation-v.37

Some have been taught the Word of God and have the truths right in front of them but have never allowed the truth to travel from their minds to their hearts.

1. A lack of desire- v.44

The Jewish leaders were set in their ways and did not want to change.

1. A lack of humility- v.52-53

 The religious leaders felt they had the truth of the law and their ancestry guaranteed God’s approval.