

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 23RD, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

## FREEDOM (JOHN 8:30-32) CONTINUING IN HIS WORD

Many believed in Jesus because of what He said. But that initial belief wasn't enough. **They had to continue in His words to know they were really His disciples.**

- **Many of us can get stuck on the initial conversion to Christianity and forget that we are to be in a relationship with Christ.**

### THE TRUTH

**Jesus declares the truth to those who believe in Him! We learn the truth as we study His Word!**

- Following a preconceived idea of whom we think Jesus is and whom we want Him to be in our lives is one thing. It is something completely different to stay with Jesus when He has made known who He really is.

### THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

There is a big difference between 'a truth' or 'your truth' and 'The Truth.' **Absolute freedom can only come from one. We are truly free when we can do His will!**

- The world wants you to believe that true freedom and happiness come when you follow 'your truth.' The problem is **truth is not a concept. It is God Himself!**

## SLAVES TO SIN (JOHN 8:33-38) DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM

The Jews relied on being in the bloodline of Abraham to guarantee them a permanent place in God's family. This was a false sense of security.

- **Who are we descendants of? We can't rely on someone else's faith to align us with God. It has to be a decision we live out daily!**

### WE ARE NOT SLAVES

We are either slaves to sin or free as sons and daughters to remain in God's house.

- Sin has a way of controlling us and dictating our actions. It can manifest itself in many ways. **But Jesus has broken the power of sin over us! This allows us to be the person God created us to be!**

### WHITE KNUCKLE CHRISTIANITY

The Pharisees suffered from the **spiritual pride of relying on their strength instead of God's. Never realizing they were slaves.**

- **God doesn't want you stuck in the burden of doing everything right, relying on your own strength.** That was never part of the deal. **That is why Christ went to the cross!**

## TRUTH & LIES (JOHN 8:39-47) OUR BEHAVIOR WILL SHOW OUR HERITAGE

The Jews saw themselves as:

1. **Free Men**
2. **Sons of Abraham**
3. **Children of God**

Jesus saw them as:

1. **Enslaved to sin**
2. **Intolerant to the truth**
3. **Offspring of Satan**

### MOUNTAINS TO DIE ON

**The Jews were so caught up in 'religion' that they were missing out on God.** They had an unholy zeal that they thought was from God, but it was actually from Satan.

- How many of us have been guilty of having an unholy zeal for unbiblical things? **Instead of resisting Satan, we were doing his work.**

## HARDENED HEARTS

Jesus gave His audience an easy out by asking them, "Who among you can convict me of sin (v 46)?"

- **Due to their hardened hearts, even though they had spent their lives looking for the Messiah, they were missing Him. We must be careful not to miss Jesus speaking to our hearts.**

## ETERNAL REALITY (JOHN 8:48-59) INSULTS

Jesus' audience resorts to insults to dishonor Him. Instead of getting caught up in the name-calling, **Jesus again points back to the truth that he was sent from God.**

- Name-calling usually means the person or group has run out of intelligible comments. **We shouldn't be surprised if this happens to us.**

### FREE FROM DEATH

Instead of seeing Jesus pointing to eternal life, they misunderstood Him through a material meaning.

- **Instead of fearing death's uncertainty and significance, we can now have hope. Hope that death's uncertainty is gone, and its significance has been dramatically altered.**

### JESUS IS ETERNAL

Jesus not only claims to have existed before Abraham was born, but he claims to be God.

- **Jesus is the only one to make this claim out of all major religions! As C.S. Lewis described it, "Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse."**

### FREE FROM SIN

- We are either free from sin or slaves to it.
- **Jesus has broken the power of sin over us!**
- **Do we believe we have been freed from the bondage of sin through the Holy Spirit, or are we trying to break the chains ourselves?**

### ETERNAL LIFE

- Jesus has forever changed the meaning of death.
- **We no longer have to fear death because it has been swallowed up in victory.**
- **We can trust Jesus because He is qualified. He is not only the Son of God but God Himself. We can also trust Him because He has experienced death and conquered it.**

### TRUTH

- Jesus will free us from sin and death if we remain in His truth and keep His Word.
- **What does your relationship with Christ look like?**
- **If we claim to be in a relationship with Him, do our lives show evidence of it?**