**Charles Spurgeon** gave this <u>advice</u> to the <u>preacher</u>: "Dash yourself with gasoline, strike a match, set yourself on fire, and people will come watch you burn."

Having a pale skinned <u>red-headed preacher</u> speaking outdoors, you are <u>guaranteed</u> the opportunity to watch him burn.

Although, I am wearing <u>SPF 50</u> right now, so hopefully that will help.

**Good Morning by the way!** I am <u>John Hansen</u> for those of you who have not met me yet. My wife <u>Carolyn</u> and I have <u>4 daughters</u>... Chloe, Claire, Cailyn and Kate. They are 12, 10, 9 and 7 now.

We <u>joined Redemption</u> Hill a year and a half ago at the beginning of <u>Covid</u>... I realize that with *indoor, outdoor, video* church it has been a little <u>tricky to know</u> who is going to our church.

But IF WE haven't met you yet, we would love to!

Turn in your Bibles to John 8. ... We'll be looking at John 8:31-36.

Hook

Years ago, I remember trying to **share the gospel** with a relative. I'll call him **Uncle Brad**.

I knew that if I <u>couldn't convince</u> him of his <u>sinfulness</u>, then I couldn't convince him of his need for Christ.

"Uncle Brad, you are a sinner and you need a savior."

He responded: "I am a good man. I have <u>never cheated</u> on my wife."

"That's great Uncle Brad, but the Bible says that we have <u>all sinned</u>. We all need a savior. So you're a sinner too."

At that point Uncle Brad got up and walked out.

A lot of people <u>stumble</u> over the <u>first point</u> of the gospel. The first point is that you are <u>not</u> a <u>good</u> person.

You are actually a **slave to sin**.

And you need <u>Jesus</u> to set you <u>free</u>.

In John 8, we are in the middle of the most hostile interaction between Jesus and the Jews.

Jesus claims to be the <u>light of the world</u>.

Verse 30 says that many believed in him.

At least they had some sort of faith UNTIL HE started saying things that they didn't like.

In John 8:31-36, we see: a Promise, an Objection, and 3 Responses.

**Promise:** Jesus offers freedom to true disciples.

**Objection:** The Jews object saying, "We ARE free!" --- We don't need your offer of freedom because we are already free.

#### 3 Responses:

- 1) You're not free. --- You are slaves to sin.
- 2) Slaves get the boot. Only sons get to stay.
- 3) The Son sets people truly free.

#### Read Text: John 8:31-36

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,

[He's speaking presumably to people who are on his side. On his team. And he gives them this promise.]

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Sounds, like a nice promise, but the Jews resent what he says. They object.

<sup>33</sup> They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

Then, Jesus gives 3 responses to their question. I will tell you how it is that I say "you will become free".

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

Jesus distinguishes between a son and slave.

Notice in verse 35 we have the lower case S for son, but in verse 36, we have the Capital S for son.

In verse 35, son refers to Christians who've been adopted into the family of God. In verse 36, Son refers to Jesus himself, the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Can I hear an AMEN?

Let's try that again.

<sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Pray: **God, set us free!** For those in <u>darkness</u>, show them a great light. Through Jesus Christ, remove the <u>blinders</u> and the chains. For those SAINTS stuck in <u>besetting sin</u>, set them free to walk in holiness. Help us to <u>believe the gospel</u>...especially *right after we sin*...to believe that all our sins are <u>forgiven</u> and cleansed by the blood of Christ. <u>Transform</u> us Lord, and give us hearts that love you more than we love our sin. Set us free. AMEN.

I've titled the message today:

TITLE: Free Indeed

My favorite book on Purity is **"Finally Free"** by <u>Heath Lambert</u>. Love the title. Love the content.

And my favorite verse in the Bible is

### **Galatians 5:1**

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

The Berean study Bible translates it this way...

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Jesus set you free, **SO** that you would <u>be free</u>.

As **Romans 6:4** says, God saved you **NOT** so you can **WALK** around in the <u>chains</u> the rest of your life, but so that you can walk in <u>newness of life</u>.

Let's jump in. We're just going to go verse by verse and unpack the text. Verse 31 begins...

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,

It says they "had believed"... which is a bit <u>surprising</u> considering the <u>rest</u> of the chapter.

In the course of John 8, Jesus makes 4 accusations of these people who had believed. He says to these supposed believers:

- 1) You are slaves to sin.
- 2) Abraham is not your father.
- 3) God is not your father.
- 4) You are sons of the devil.

These are **not die-hard** followers of Jesus. They are <u>fair-weather fans</u> at best.

John uses the <u>finite</u> **Greek verb** for believe. He says they <u>"had believed"</u>. That tense is often used for those who <u>express interest</u> in Jesus but <u>don't truly</u> become his <u>disciples</u>.

They may be Hebrews 6 believers...they have tasted of the heavenly gift but later walk away. They are the **rocky ground believers**. They spring up quickly but then the <u>sun</u> comes up and they <u>wither</u> because they have <u>no root</u>.

In scripture, **TRUE** <u>heart</u> transformed, spiritually <u>resurrected</u>, fruit bearing, FREE IN CHRIST believers are often referred to with the **Greek** <u>present</u> **participle**... BELIEVING.

We **don't want** to be those who "had believed" at one time. We want to be blood bought saints who continue in the faith...who **are believing**.

Continuing in Vs 31 Jesus gives these Jews who "had believed" a **PROMISE**.

<sup>31</sup> ... "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Notice: He begins with an **IF**.

I love the word <u>IF</u>. When I see an IF, you might get a warning or a promise. When I see an IF, I think good things are coming.

- If you <u>sow</u>, you will <u>reap</u>
- If you work, you will get paid

Jesus says, "If you **abide** in my word..."

# Are you reading your Bible? You've got to be in the book!

Jesus is saying...

- If you believe what I say
- If you continually meditate on my Word
- And you live there. You abide. You stay put.
- If you will walk in my ways...

Then, good things are coming. **3 good things** to be precise.

You will be a true disciple, you'll know the truth, and the truth will set you free. Let's BREAK those down.

# True disciple

- You will be **true** authentic, real --- not a fake Christian
- a true <u>follower</u> of Jesus one who really does love Jesus, a sincere and devout believer
- A <u>student</u> a disciple is a learner --- You sit at the feet of Jesus. You observe his way of living with great interest.
  - You seek to <u>MODEL</u> YOUR LIFE after his <u>practice</u>. You watch what he does and you do it.
  - You seek to model your life after his <u>teaching</u> You listen to what he says. You <u>believe</u> it. You <u>obey</u> it. And you make it a <u>practice</u> to in the day in and day out of your life to walk in his ways.

# Know the truth

- **Lost people** <u>don't know</u> the truth. Life doesn't <u>make sense</u> to them. They are <u>pawing</u> around in the dark in a world of utter <u>confusion</u>.
- **But not you.** You <u>abide</u> in His Word. You <u>KNOW</u> the truth.

# And the truth will set you free.

Now the truth sets you free in a couple ways.

**IMMEDIATELY** – You are <u>forgiven</u> of all your sin, <u>adopted</u> into God's family, and granted <u>eternal life</u>. You go from SLAVE to SON.

**GRADUALLY** – You are growing in grace. Getting better and better at walking in the ways of the Lord. You're sinning less. The fruit of the Spirit is developing in you.

When Jesus sets you free, your life starts changing.

Not perfectly, but more and more in your <u>character</u> and your <u>practice</u>, you are becoming like Jesus.

You were like a **guilty man on trial**. You <u>drug</u> your <u>guilt</u> around like a <u>ball</u> and chain...knowing that <u>judgment</u> awaits.

But then you met Jesus.

- He <u>washed</u> away your sin.
- He took away your guilt.
- He gave you hope and joy.
- He set you <u>free</u>.

What a promise! --- If you abide in His Word, all of this is yours!!!

These **Jews** have got to be <u>excited</u>, right? But NO.

# They Object

They get stuck on one word... FREE

Jesus says "**you will be set free**". They find that <u>insulting</u>. BECAUSE Jesus is <u>implying</u> that they are not free. But rather that they are slaves.

<sup>33</sup> They answered him, [Hohoho ho] "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

# We have never been slaves of anyone.

I'm scratching my head. Never been slaves of anyone?

YOU are **out of your minds!** What great nation has not had you for a <u>slave</u>? The <u>Egyptians</u>, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Syria... Perhaps you had some brief <u>moments</u> of freedom, but you spent a <u>lot of time enslaved</u>.

<u>David Guzik</u> points out: While they were making this statement from the temple mount, they could look across to see the Fortress Antonio with a garrison of Roman soldiers looking down upon them ruling over them...at that moment.

They have been slaves in the past. And, now you're under the thumb of Rome.

But obviously, they were <u>not referring</u> to their <u>political condition</u>.

Perhaps those speaking were <u>wealthy Jews.</u> "We aren't slaves. WE own slaves!" And they were <u>incensed</u> that Jesus would refer to them as slaves. --- But I don't think so. They don't say "We are rich land owners". No, they say we are offspring of Abraham.

SO, **most likely**, they were <u>alluding</u> to their <u>special relationship</u> with God. **WE** are the <u>children</u> of Israel. We have the <u>law</u>, the <u>priesthood</u>. The promised land. We ARE the <u>people of God</u>.

We are no **scumbag** <u>Gentiles</u> or half-breed <u>Samaritans</u>. **How dare** you refer to us as slaves!

Next Jesus responds.

# Response #1: You are slaves to sin.

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

He's already said they <u>need</u> to be set <u>free</u>. By implication, he's saying they are <u>practicing</u> sin and thus are slaves to sin.

**William Hendriksen** says that VERSE 34 is "one of the most remarkable things" ever said by Jesus.

If he had said, *Gentiles are slaves to sin*. Gentiles are in <u>bondage</u> and <u>darkness</u>. --- These Jews would have given a hearty AMEN.

But he says **EVERYONE**. All of <u>humanity</u> is at the <u>same level</u>. **These Jews** are at the same level as the <u>Gentiles</u> and <u>Samaritans</u>. That's very offensive to a Jew.

### Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

The OT presents REAL HISTORY (real people, places, events), but this real history is often <u>orchestrated</u> by God to teach us <u>spiritual truths</u>...

- <u>Slavery</u> in Egypt was primarily a *picture* of the general <u>state of man</u> after the fall.
  = ENSLAVED TO SIN
- Moses the deliverer was primarily a picture of the great deliverer...to come = JESUS, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

Since the <u>fall of man</u> in the garden, we ALL, Jews and Gentiles, have been **BORN IN** SIN...born in a sinful <u>corrupted state</u>. **Born slaves.** 

**Psalms 51:5** - Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**Ecclesiastes 7:20** - For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and does not sin. ---- THERE'S NOT EVEN 1

**Psalms 58:3** - The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.

**Romans 5:12** - Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned.

**Romans** 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Since the garden, we have all been born with a sin problem. Born enslaved to sin.

We don't just commit a sin. **No**, we make a practice of it.

It's in our **nature**.

• **WHAT** do sinners do? They sin.

This is the **regular habitual pattern** of our lives...UNTIL <u>Jesus sets us free</u>.

**1 John 3:6** - No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

John is giving us the **ACID TEST** of a true disciple of Jesus. He <u>doesn't keep on sinning</u>. He doesn't keep <u>making it a practice</u> to sin. NO... He's <u>not a slave</u> anymore. Not that he never sins, but the <u>general state</u> of his life is <u>freedom</u>.

**Jesus** is the only UNDERGROUND RAILWAY that will <u>deliver</u> you out of bondage. Out of the <u>condemnation</u> of sin and the <u>practice of sin</u> that has <u>enslaved</u> you.

However, **apart from Christ**, we are in <u>bondage</u> to sin. We are <u>slaves</u>.

That's an offensive thing to say to these Jews who see themselves as God's people.

**Kevin De Young** says, if your Jesus doesn't say <u>hard, offensive things</u>, then your Jesus isn't the Jesus of the Bible.

In the next verse, Jesus cranks it up THE OFFENSIVENESS another notch: verse 35

### Response #2: Slaves get the boot. Sons get to stay.

<sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

Jesus says: You are slaves and you're getting kicked out of the house...at some point. You're getting the BOOT

The house is <u>God's house</u>. In this house, there are <u>slaves</u> and there are <u>sons</u>. --- It's the <u>wheat and the tears</u>. The tears will be thrown out and burned. The slave <u>DOES NOT REMAIN</u>. The slave may be **dismissed or sold**.

Jesus has <u>just told</u> these Jews that they are <u>slaves</u>. Yes, you are <u>Israelites</u>. Verse 37 Jesus <u>admits</u>, "You are **offspring of Abraham**." You have <u>enjoyed</u> the <u>benefits</u> of being God's <u>chosen</u> nation. You have enjoyed the benefits of God's <u>Word</u>, God's <u>leaders</u> and God's <u>protection</u> and blessing in many, many ways.

### But you're still slaves!

And <u>God</u> can **get rid of you** <u>any time</u> he wants. These slaves who, according to Jesus are:

- Not true sons of Abraham
- Not true sons of God
- And are sons of the devil ... **Are on their way out.**

They are the <u>unworthy tenants</u> and the <u>cursed fig tree</u> that bore no fruit. They are the <u>slaves</u> who got to **stay in the house for a time**.

You're like **YIKES**. Those are some tough words, Jesus. --- It's <u>not surprising</u> that later in John 8, Verse 59 we see that they **pick up stones** to kill Jesus.

The <u>slaves</u> are on their <u>way out</u>. But <u>sons stay</u> in the house. They remain forever. They stay in the <u>family</u>. They stay <u>free!</u>

### Response #3: The Son sets people free indeed.

<sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

In order to be <u>free</u>. In order to become a <u>son</u>, you **need THE Son**. – In order to become a lower case S son, you need the upper case S Son.

**Jesus** is the <u>only begotten</u> son of God. He is **the Son**, and he is a <u>SON-MAKER</u>. He is a <u>Moses</u> and a <u>Harriet Tubman</u>. He has the <u>keys</u> to your <u>shackles</u>.

**Free Indeed:** Jesus is going to <u>REALLY set you free</u>. Maybe you're thinking <u>credit cards</u> paid off, money in the <u>bank</u>, a better <u>governor</u> or a better <u>president</u>, more political <u>rights</u>... **NO** Jesus isn't so much after changing your <u>present circumstances</u>... He's about changing your <u>heart</u> and your <u>eternity</u>. He's going to <u>forgive</u> your sin, remove your <u>guilt</u>, fill you with his <u>Holy Spirit</u> and give you <u>peace</u> and <u>joy</u>. That's **true freedom!** 

He's looking to set you free by transforming your entire life from the inside out.

**Kevin DeYoung** says, "Jesus is not here to shine up sinners. He is not about stapling fresh apples to dead trees."

No, God is about making you a <u>new creation</u> in Christ Jesus.

When Jesus sets you free, he **CHANGES YOUR IDENTITY**. You go from <u>SLAVE TO SON</u>. From <u>bondage to freedom</u>.

**YOU**... and I'm talking to <u>true believers</u> right now... **NOT** you who <u>have believed</u>. Or go to church. But you who <u>are believing</u>...you who are persevering in the faith.

**You who abide in His Word**. YOU are His <u>true disciples</u>. You have been <u>adopted</u> into the family of God. You are <u>sons</u>.

Your guilt is gone. Your sins are forgiven. Your eternity is secure.

You have everlasting life.

You are empowered to walk in the ways of the Lord.

You are <u>becoming</u> ... **day by day**... <u>more and more</u> like your Rabbi.

### Saints of God, REPEAT after me...

- I will abide in His word
- I am a true disciple
- I know the truth
- I am free
- I am free
- I am free INDEED

#### Pray

God, you have painted a **picture of freedom**. Oh, how sweet it is!.

Lord, I pray that you would drive <u>lost souls</u> to *jealousy* this morning. That they would <u>see how good</u> the saints of God have it, and they'd <u>want Jesus</u> more than they want their sin.

Lord, there some here who <u>aren't sure</u> where they <u>stand</u> in the faith. They're not sure if they're <u>saved</u>. They just <u>keep sinning</u>. It seems like sin is a <u>practice</u> in their life...rather than an <u>occasional stumbling</u>. Grant them <u>godly sorrow</u>, true <u>repentance</u>, and <u>faith</u> in Christ. <u>Transform</u> them from **Slaves to Sons**.

And Lord, for those who <u>are believing</u>. They are <u>true disciples</u> who <u>abide</u> in your Word. <u>Never</u> let them <u>forget</u> how good they've got it. They <u>know</u> the <u>truth</u> and they are <u>free</u>. Lord, you have <u>lavished</u> your love upon them and given them the <u>riches</u> of heaven. Let these <u>realities</u> cause <u>DAILY ERUPTIONS</u> of joy and worship in their lives.

Amen

## I Am the Light of the World

<sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." <sup>13</sup> So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." <sup>14</sup> Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. <sup>15</sup> You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. <sup>16</sup> Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. <sup>17</sup> In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. <sup>18</sup> I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me." <sup>19</sup> They said to him therefore, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." <sup>20</sup> These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

<sup>21</sup> So he said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." <sup>22</sup> So the Jews said, "Will he kill himself, since he says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" <sup>23</sup> He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup> I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." <sup>25</sup> So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. <sup>26</sup> I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." <sup>27</sup> They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. <sup>28</sup> So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will

know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. <sup>29</sup> And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him." <sup>30</sup> As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

### The Truth Will Set You Free

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." <sup>33</sup> They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave<sup>11</sup> to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup> I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

#### You Are of Your Father the Devil

<sup>39</sup> They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, <sup>40</sup> but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. <sup>41</sup> You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. <sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. <sup>46</sup> Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? <sup>47</sup> Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

# Before Abraham Was, I Am

<sup>48</sup> The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" <sup>49</sup> Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you

dishonor me. <sup>50</sup> Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." <sup>52</sup> 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.' <sup>53</sup> Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" <sup>54</sup> 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.' <sup>55</sup> 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. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." <sup>57</sup> So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" <sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." <sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

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Paul and Silas have been beaten and bound in chains. And yet they are the freest men in Philipi??. At midnight, despite their dire circumstances, they are found singing hymns to God.

This highlights the difference between the slave and the free man.

The free man can rejoice in all circumstances.

Apart from Jesus, you don't get free.

- Self Discipline won't do it
- Financial smarts
- There is no other religion or spiritual guru
- Buddha, Muhammed, Harikrishna won't save you
- Oprah, Dr. Phil and Dr. Fauci will only leave you enslaved
- There is only 1 hope for mankind

As Romans \_\_\_ says, God has bound all men over to sin that he might be just and the justifier of all who put their faith in him.

All men are enslaved to sin.

Jews and Gentiles. Asians. Africans. Europeans. Australians. North Americans. South Americans.

All slaves!

But if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Jesus is speaking to proud Jews. They see themselves a superior to the Gentiles. Superior to all other races in the world.

And he tells them that they are slaves.

He attacks them. But these are the...

Proverbs "wounds of a friend". Friends tell the truth. Because as much as the truth hurts, it is in the only path to freedom.

Jesus gives them a gift. The truth.

If they humble themselves and accept the truth of their personal enslavement to sin...then there is hope for them.

If they do not, then there is none.

Verse 31 says they had believed him, but verses 37 and 38 make it clear that this is not saving faith.

Jesus points this out...

# <sup>37</sup> I know that you are offspring of Abraham;

- You're ethnically Jewish. Physically descended from Abraham...and...

yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. <sup>38</sup> I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

How ironic that these descendent of Abraham, the father of salvation by faith alone, don't really believe.

- They are seeking to kill Jesus: In the near future (IN JUST A MATTER OF WEEKS???), they will be crying "Crucify him."
- His word finds no place in them: It doesn't reside in their hearts. They don't memorize it, client to it, meditate on it.
- Why? Because they are not sons of God.
- They are sons of the devil. --- Jesus alludes to that in vs 38 and confirms it in verse 44.

But these people had "believed on Jesus". What kind of belief was this?

- Maybe they believed that he was some political messiah who would free them from Rome
- Maybe they believed he was a good man or a good teacher
- But they weren't interested in someone who was going to point out their sin problem
- Jesus was giving unsolicited advice and they were not interested

James – The devil believes and he trembles

There is knowledge of Jesus that is not saving faith.

Perhaps you believe that Jesus

- Died on the cross
- Rose from the dead

- Taught many good things
- Is the Son of God
- Is the Savior of the World

That's great. But the devil also believes all that.

Do you believe that you are a slave to sin? Do you believe that Jesus is all that and did all that in order to set you free from sin?

That is the key difference between these Jews and true disciples of Jesus.

That is the difference between a Satan and a Saint.

Between demons and Christians.

### How does this apply to me?

Maybe this is to show you that you are not a true disciple of Jesus.

- You think you're free, but you're really a slave.
- Jesus isn't your Lord and savior.
- Sin is your master and you are enslaved.

Not a really nice message, but it's better to know now while there is still time for you to repent, believe and be set free.

Maybe this is to encourage you be re-aligning your priorities with those of Christ.

- Jesus didn't come to re-arrange the political system.
- Jesus didn't come to save you from Biden, Fauci or Covid.
- He came to set sinners free.
- He has armed you with the gospel so you can be his

### **Application**

#### 1. To the slaves:

Your pride and unbelief will damn you.

Your only hope is Jesus.

### 2. To those flirting with the idea of following Jesus:

Church attendance won't save you. Hanging out with the right people won't save you. Voting conservative won't save you.

You need to go from Slave to Son.

That's as easy as ABC.

A – Admit you are sinner. Confess your sin and repent.

B – Believe on Jesus Christ.

Not just that he's God, but that he's your God.

Not just that he's the savior of the world. But believe that he's the savior of your world.

That when he died on the cross, his blood was shed for you.

C – Confess your faith.

God public with your faith. Get baptized. And tell everyone you know that you are His.

### 3. Are you a true disciple?

# Are you a true disciple?

- Does God's Word play a prominent role in your life? Do you read it regularly? Do you meditate on the Word and memorize it?
- Do you love God's Word?
- Do you know the truth? Do you believe it?
- Are you free? Are you living in bondage to your sin? Is sin a general practice in your life?

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#### 4. To the free:

Whom the son sets free is free indeed.

If Jesus has set you free, then you are REALLY free.

You are no longer a slave.

#### You are free from

- Consequences of sin: You will escape God's wrath.
- Power of sin: You are not only commanded to obey God's law as all men are... BUT You are empowered by the Holy Spirit to walk in righteousness.

Stop seeing yourself as a slave to sin. Your free!

#### But I have

- financial problems
- health problems
- marriage problems
- But the government

#### But nothing... You are free!

- Free to walk in faith despite your finances
- Free to sing Halleluyah despite your health
- Free to live a joy filled life no matter how your spouse treats you
- And this government is not your government. This is not your home. You are a citizen of heaven.
- And Jesus is your king!

King Jesus says you're free!

Newsboys – Wherever we go