

John 8:30-59 – The Truth Shall Make You Free

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As with all of John's gospel, there is so much to say about these verses. As I have said in the past, his economy of words is phenomenal! I read his passages and just am dumbfounded sometimes. It's almost like a puzzle or a riddle and when you see the solution, you are amazed.

- √ v. 30,31
 - Ø **So, what is the test of a true disciple?**
 - Ø Similar to John 2:23-3:2. Doesn't make it easy on them.
 - Ø **Does "abiding in God's word" make you a disciple?**
 - Ø People can "believe" in Jesus and not really be His disciple. **Is that true?**
 - Ø All faith is not saving faith. They "believed" His words but did not have saving faith yet. As we have discussed, "believing" is a BIG word – all encompassing.
 - Ø James 2:19 Even the demons believe and tremble.
 - Ø "Faith alone saves, but saving faith is not alone."
 - Ø Theologians say saving faith involves: notitia, assensus, and fiducia.
 - § Knowledge, assent (affirmation), trust (faith) – Mind, emotions, will
 - Ø First step is notitia – examine the evidence
 - Ø Jesus says the first step will lead to the others (v. 32) – "abide in my word" – read, listen, think, ponder, meditate, chew, test. **Whose word?** Ask the question, "Is this true?"
 - Ø It's not a requirement for becoming, but a characteristic of a disciple. Not a condition for salvation.
 - Ø "All Christians are disciples. Not all disciples are Christians."
 - Ø Be Word oriented.
 - Ø Good test: you know you are a disciple if you continue/abide in God's word! Note, it says if you abide in His word, then you *are* His disciple!
- √ v. 32-35
 - Ø **So, what happens if we abide in the word – His word?**
 - Ø "and you *shall* know the truth..." – fact. An inevitable result or blessing.
 - § **What is [the] truth?** Ans.: reality as it really is – as God knows it. Revelation of Scripture as taught by God the Holy Spirit. Intimate knowledge. Difficult to be fooled.
 - § Prov. 2:1-5
 - {1} My son, if you will receive my words
And treasure my commandments within you,**
 - {2} Make your ear attentive to wisdom,
Incline your heart to understanding;**
 - {3} For if you cry for discernment,
Lift your voice for understanding;**
 - {4} If you seek her as silver
And search for her as for hidden treasures;**
 - {5} Then you will discern the fear of the LORD
And discover the knowledge of God.**
 - Ø "...and the truth shall make you free."
 - § **And what does this do for us?**
 - § **Free from what?** (note, that's what the Jews ask)
 - Luke 4 :18 "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.
HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES,
AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND,
TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED."**
 - § Free from the bondage of falsehood, Satan, condemnation, judgment, spiritual death, sin. (John 3:18; 5:24; 8:12; 17:15; Rom 6:18-22; 8:1-2; 2 Cor 4:4; 1 John 5:18-20)
 - § Free from all our hang-ups – fear, guilt, pride, anger, etc.
 - § Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.
 - Ø Since the Jews had been national slaves to Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Syria, and now Rome, **what were they talking about?**
 - Ø They claimed religious freedom – obviously not national freedom. They thought as God's chosen people, the descendants of Abraham, that they were the true church, they had the "full gospel" as we often hear.

- No one told them how to worship. “Nobody tells us how to worship. You worship your way, we’ll worship His way.”
- Ø They never were pagans or had a false religion. They worshipped the one true God. And they did not need to be freed. They thought they were ok: self sufficient.
 - Ø **Did they understand the bondage to which Jesus referred?**
 - Ø Truly, Truly... (important) – I always say “Listen to me...” (we’re in the land of Truly, Truly’s)
 - Ø “commits sin” is a tense of continuing action: as a life principle.
 - Ø Listen, anyone who harbors and nourishes sin in their heart and life, who continues in sin pridefully and purposefully, is a slave to sin. (2 Pet. 2:19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.)
 - Ø Sons stay in the house; slaves will have to leave. Kinda like Isaac and Ishmael.
 - Ø I am *the* Son, if you are my disciple, you are free, no longer a slave to sin, set free from the law of sin and death, and you will stay. Release and adopted. (Rom 8:1-2 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.)
 - Ø **So, what must we do to have freedom?** Ans.: Be Jesus’ disciple. If you want to be free, come to Christ [big!] believe in Him – be Jesus’ disciple. He will deliver you from the penalty and power of sin and someday the presence of sin. Disciple à Word à Truth à Freedom.
 - Ø **How does “the truth” set or make you free?** Name some of the truths that make you free. Truth allows us to say, in those wonderful juvenile words, “You’re not the boss of me!”
 - Ø **So, what is it that imprisons or enslaves us?** Ans.: error, lies, ignorance. Ever wonder at the push for education?
- ✓ In these verses, notice the dualism, the opposites which are set up: truth vs. lies; free vs. slave; children of God vs. children of the devil; life vs. death.
 - ✓ v. 37-47 – Jesus paints a very clear picture.
 - Ø Questions:
 - § **In what sense were the Jews Abraham’s descendants and in what sense were they not?**
 - § **What proof did Jesus give them that they were not?**
 - § **Whom did the Jews claim as their Father?**
 - § **Who did Jesus say was their father? And how did he show it?**
 - § **Name 2 characteristics of their father. Examples?**
 - § **What challenge did Jesus lay down to the Jews?**
 - § **Why did the Jews reject Him?**
 - Ø Physically these Jews were children of Abraham, but spiritually they were children of Satan. Abraham’s descendants in the flesh but not in spirit. **Is this possible?** Rom 2:28-29; Rom 9:6; Col 2:9-14.
 - Ø “They [the Jewish teachers] beguile themselves and you, supposing that the everlasting kingdom will be assuredly given to those of the dispersion who are of Abraham after the flesh, although they be sinners, and faithless, and disobedient towards God.” (Justin Martyr to Jewish opponent in debate).
 - Ø We are the opposite mostly: not of the flesh but of the spirit. “Sons of Abraham...” song.
 - Ø Jesus makes it clear that one’s spiritual family is demonstrated by the Father one obeys.
 - Ø They thought their physical lineage made them pleasing to God – much as today.
 - Ø “Yes you are physically descended, but by your actions you show you are not Abraham’s spiritual children and thus not God’s.”
 - Ø “We were not born of fornication...” They were truly of Abraham’s lineage no doubt: not illegitimate.
 - Ø **What does this say about the statement that “we are all God’s children?” Do we “sit and sup with children of the devil?”**
 - Ø **So, why can’t they understand and believe?** (v. 43) Similar to John 3:3; 8:47; et al
 - § Our desire to do things other than what God wants keeps us from coming to God or understanding His message. John 3:19 we love darkness...
 - Ø **So, how do we become children of God?** John 1:12-13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - Ø v. 44 Jesus says it quite plainly, there are really only two sides to the situation.
 - ✓ v. 48-59 Wow!
 - Ø All else failed, so let’s call him names and say He’s crazy.
 - Ø “You Samaritan!” We used to say, “Communist.” Calling a Jew a Samaritan, as you know, was a huge insult. In other words, “Just who do you think you are?”
 - Ø “I’m not here trying to build up myself. I’m not doing this for me. Why do you dishonor me? I am here to honor the Father.

- Ø 1 Pet 2:23a 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return;
- Ø Then, BAM! “Listen to Me.” We’re back to where we started a minute ago. “If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” Explains a lot about “freedom and truth” doesn’t it? What are you if you keep His word?
- Ø What does it mean to “keep His word”? John 12:6; John 15:10-11; Luke 11:27-28; Luke 9:23-25.
- Ø What?! Are you insane?! Abraham died. The prophets died. Who are you?
- Ø What did Jesus mean here? This is a giant statement!
 - § For the “zillionth” time, He is talking about spiritual things and they are hearing physical.
 - § We will never be separated from God. (period!) Just like He said in 5:24; 6:50, 11:25-26; et al.
 - § Eternal life, life everlasting, comes from humbly and truly [big] believing in Jesus – by grace through faith. If you are a disciple, you will keep His word and you will never see death! FREEDOM!
- Ø What?! Are you insane?! Abraham died. The prophets died. Who are you?
 - § “I’m here from the Father who glorifies me and who you obviously do not know.”
 - § “I never knew you...” (Matt 7:23)

“Did you know that Abraham rejoiced to see my day?” Heb 11:13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

- § “This guy’s a nut. He’s not even 50 year old yet and claims to have seen Abraham!”
- § “I simply tell you this, before Abraham was, I am.”
- § Did the Jews (Jewish leaders) clearly understand what Jesus had said?

✓ Chapter 8 Summary

- Ø John’s purpose for his gospel was John 20:31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
- Ø Let’s see how he did here...
 - § Jesus and the adulterous woman – He new others’ sins, forgave her sin.
 - § Jesus is the light of the world (v. 12)
 - § Jesus said he was “I am” 3 times here (v. 24, 28, 58)
 - § Jesus said we must believe in Him or we will die in our sins (v. 24)
 - § Jesus said He came from above or from the Father (v.23, 42 et al)
 - § Jesus said He was the truth and we must believe in Him and abide in His word (v. 31, 32, 51)
 - § Jesus said He (the Son) sets us free from sin (v. 36)
 - § Jesus said He was sinless (v. 46)
 - § Jesus gives us eternal life (v. 24, 51)
 - § Jesus existed for all time, He’s eternal (v. 56, 58)
- Ø So, how can we not see Christ’s deity in all this? Try reading v. 43 and 47 again! John passes.

[big] Believing:

There is nothing in which you can be employed that is more acceptable to God than

- ✓ Yielding to the evidence set before you
- ✓ Acknowledging Jesus as Messiah, the Son of God, and the savior of sinners
- ✓ Confessing your sins and guilt in light of what you know
- ✓ Recognizing that Jesus is present in your life, yielding to him Lordship of your life.
- ✓ Trusting what Jesus says
- ✓ Obeying his commandments - respond

This is what it means to believe!