

**John 8:31-59**  
**Freedom in Christ**

1 – “Thank you” to Marcus for sharing two Wednesday nights ago.

2 – “Thank you” to everyone who participated in the proposal affirmation last Sunday. In an elder led, congregationally ruled church body, it is imperative that every member participate.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 - *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

- a) All gifts, service, and manifestations of the Spirit
- b) Are given by the same Spirit, Lord and God
- c) For the common good

Ephesians 4:15-16 - *we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

- a) *The body grows and builds itself up in love when*
- b) *Every joint is in its place and working properly*

And that brings us to our text this evening where Jesus is in the Temple disputing with the Pharisees and scribes.

**30** – “As he was saying these things, many believed in him.”

**31**- *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,*

- a) *Abide in my word = meno = continue, tarry, endure,*

John 14:2 – *In my Father’s house are many rooms...*

- b) *Rooms = monai from meno = dwelling, abode, abiding, staying*

If you don’t hang out with Jesus now, you won’t live with him forever.

*Heaven doesn’t change of your desires, it fulfils them.  
Heaven is the realization of your desires.  
If you don’t desire Jesus now, you won’t desire him in Heaven.*

**32** - *and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

- a) *Truth = aletheia = objectively true*
- b) *Free = eletheroo = to set at liberty*

The remainder of the chapter is an exposition on those comments

**First: Freedom from spiritual blindness. 33**

**33** - *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'?"*

The Jews were enslaved to:

- a) Egyptians
- b) 7 times in Judges
- c) Assyrians
- d) Babylonians
- e) Rome

But Jesus isn't talking about political slavery or freedom. He's talking about spiritual slavery and freedom.

The problem with spiritual blindness is that we can't even 'see' the situation we are in –

John 3:3 - *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

- a) Born again
- b) See

What Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3; he is practicing in John 8.

These Jews don't know and won't know they are slaves unless Jesus tells them. They think they are free until Jesus tells them they are slaves.

We think we are free and don't even know we are sinners without Jesus telling us so (8:12)

This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

Romans 8:29-30 - *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

- a) *Foreknowledge*
- b) *Predestination*
- c) *Calling*
- d) *Justification*
- e) *Glorified*

From start to finish, salvation is a work of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

One of the reasons we don't sing like we should  
is that we don't know what we should –  
about sin, ourselves, God, Hell and Heaven.

The truth saves us from spiritual blindness but also...

### **Second: Freedom from Spiritual Slavery. 34**

34 - *Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.*

Everyone is a slave to something: self, sin, or Jesus.

1 Kings 21:25 - *There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited.*

**IMP:** People or circumstances may 'incite' me to sin but only I can sin.

Adam was partially right when he said,

Genesis 3:12 - *The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."*

And Eve repeats the half-truth when she says,

Genesis 3:13 - *Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

Adam and Eve ate to be like God (Gen 3:5). The very thing God intended to give them, and could only give them, they spoiled by trying to take, make for themselves.

ILL – This is humanity's goal:

- a) Cain killed Abel to be the lord of life

b) The Tower of Babel is all about reaching Heaven in one's own name

Thankfully, Jesus has come to set us free from spiritual slavery to self or sin but also -

### **Third: Freedom from the Law. 35**

*The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.*

In a Middle Eastern/Roman/Greek home, slaves come and go. They are bought, sold, or run away. But the children of the master of that home remain in the home throughout that whole time.

Galatians 3:23-26 - *Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.*

*Guardian = paidagogos = tutor, a trustworthy slave whose duty is to supervise the life and morals of his master's children, 24/7.*

Jesus is trying to help the Jews understand that being the "offspring of Abraham" doesn't mean they are "free."

37-38 - *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."*

What the Jews forgot is that, while they are the seed of Abraham, so was Ishmael, the son of Hagar, the bondwoman, whom Paul compares to the law in –

Galatians 4:22-25 - *For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. <sup>23</sup> But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. <sup>24</sup> Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. <sup>25</sup> Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia;<sup>[e]</sup> she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.*

There came a time, as you know, when Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away (Gen 21) and only Isaac, the son of promise, the son of the Spirit and not the flesh, was left in Abraham's household. And only he inherited the promises.

So what house is Jesus referring to in John 8:34? - *The slave does not remain in the house forever;*

Hebrews 3:5-6 - Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, <sup>6</sup> but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

Moses = Lawgiver

Jesus = Law-Keeper

#### **Fourth: Freedom from Satan. 39-44**

*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."*

Behind all the spiritual blindness, lies and the slavery is the devil. It is a hard saying but there are only two children in the world: one of God and the other of Satan.

- a) Sinners cannot bear God's word – 43

*Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.*

*Bear = akouo = to be deaf, to consider, to comprehend*

- b) Sinners do not stand in the truth – 44
- c) Sinners do not believe Jesus -46

Contrarily,

*Colossians 2:4 – But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ*

*Colossians 1:13 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son*

**Conclusion:**

One of the reasons we don't sing like we should  
is that we don't know what we should –  
about sin, ourselves, God, Heaven or Hell.

But Christ has freed us to live so!