

Free-setting Truth

(A Study of the Gospel of John; Message #31)

John 8:31-36

A. Some truths that will impact our lives:

1. I choose what I believe - either consciously or unconsciously
2. My (chosen) beliefs determine my attitudes and actions
3. The world promotes many false truths
4. Believing “false truths” can lead to significant problems
5. Scripture - the Word - is the source of Truth
6. Believing the Scripture/Word will transform my attitudes and actions

B. Jesus’ words are addressed to all who have believed and followed him

THE PROMISE (8:31-32)

A. Jesus extends a remarkable challenge: *“If you make your home in my Word, then you are really my disciples”*

1. This challenge is not that difficult; it is, in fact, exceedingly gracious
2. Making our home *“in his Word,”* practically speaking, means three things:
 - a. Sacredly - continually living under his Word in obedience
 - b. Spatially - listening to Jesus’ Word in worship, with family, and privately
 - c. Summarily - the decision to make Jesus’ Word a major part of our day
3. Jesus challenge to make a change of residence is no small request

B. Jesus notes a pre-promise: *“If...then you are really my disciples...”*

1. The test of a real disciple is simple: *“Do you make your home in Jesus Word?”*
2. Jesus longs to be your Savior, Lord, friend, and your “home”

C. Jesus extends a promise to those who accept his challenge: *In my Word you will come to know the Truth; in knowing the Truth, you will be set free*

1. “Truth” is the presence of God in person of Jesus Christ
2. “Freedom” is being forgiven and reconciled with God through Jesus

THE PUSHBACK (8:33-36)

A. Crowd: *“What? We’re Abraham’s seed; we’ve never been enslaved to anyone”*

1. They don’t think they have a problem; they don’t see themselves in bondage

2. Jesus’ talk of “freedom” annoyed his Jewish listeners.

- a. They claimed they had never been slaves to anyone!
- b. But they had been captives in Babylon and were now subjects to Rome
- c. They held “freedom” to be the birthright of every Jew

“Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves.” (Leviticus 25:42)

d. While they may have been physically subject to others, they were determined their spirit never would be

3. They don’t need Jesus’ help or assistance - they have Abraham

4. Lesson: If you trust in yourself, your heritage, your lineage, or your actions, you’re in great bondage - because unless you confess your sins and embrace Jesus, you can never be forgiven and know real freedom

B. Jesus: *“Everyone who does what is sinful is a slave to sin. Slaves don’t get to live in the house forever.”*

1. Sin tends to ensnare us in its grip until we are powerless to break the ropes

“When you were slaves to sin...what benefit did you reap... Those things result in death.” (Romans 6:20)

2. If you don’t believe you’re a sinner; you’ll never search for a Savior.
You’re in the greatest bondage of all!

“I did not come to call the righteous but sinners...” (Matthew 9:13)

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8)

3. Slaves are not permanent members of a home - only sons and daughters were

- a. Jesus reminds his listeners of this fact and applies it to their spiritual life
- b. The only way *“slaves to sin”* get into the house is if the Son invites them and sets them free

C. Maybe John is saying, *“Believers, it’s time for a self-assessment”*

1. Are you continuously seeking the Truth in the right place?
2. Are you consciously believing the Truth you discover/read/hear?
3. Are you consistently living the Truth you know?
4. *“Come to the Truth, so the Truth himself can set you free...”*