

The Truth Will Make You Free [part 1] (John 8: 31-43)

Scripture Text:

31. So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;
32. and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
33. They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"
34. Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.
35. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.
36. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.
37. I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.
38. I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father."
39. They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham.
40. But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do.
41. You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.
42. " Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.
43. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. (JOHN 8:31-43 NASB)

Outline:

- I. Jesus Speaking to Those Who Believed (vv.31-32)
- II. A Response From Those Who Didn't Believe (v.33)
- III. Slaves to Sin (vv.34-36)
- IV. True Sons [Faith] vs False Sons [Unbelief] of Abraham (vv.37-40)
- V. True Sons [Love] vs False Sons [Hate] of God (vv.41-43)

Worksheet:

- I. Jesus Speaking to Those Who Believed (vv.31-32)
 - a. "...to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine..." (v.31)
 - i. According to this verse the first step in being a true disciple of Jesus is to _____.
 - ii. The second step in being a true disciple of Jesus is to _____.
 - iii. The result of these two things results in _____ discipleship.
 - iv. What did Jesus say about **perseverance** and **obedience (to His word)** to His disciples right before He ascended back to the Father?

 - v. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
(MATTHEW 28:19-20 NASB)
 - vi. True discipleship does not stop at being a "**learner**" of God's word, but ultimately it results in being a "**doer**" or "**faithful follower**" of God's word.

vii. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." (EPHESIANS 2:10 NASB)

b. "...and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
(v.32)

i. What truth is Jesus referring to in this verse? *[discussion]*

ii. Truth about Jesus being the _____ of God and the promised _____.

iii. Truth of Jesus' _____ that He spoke.

iv. Jesus' very being is _____.

v. Knowing Jesus in this way is not just an _____ pursuit, but a _____ and _____ reality.

II. A Response From Those Who Didn't Believe (v.33)

a. We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone;..." (v.33a)

i. Since the Jews had continually been subject to foreign powers (Egyptian, Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Syrians and at the present time the Romans) what did they mean by "...never yet been enslaved to anyone..." *[discussion]*

ii. What did the Jews stress about their relationship to Abraham?

b. "...how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?" (v.33b)

i. What was the Jews' understanding about "slavery" and their present condition related to slavery?

- ii. What important or consideration had they missed concerning the “slavery” that Jesus was speaking of?

- iii. Which aspect or consideration of “slavery” is more “weighty” and “universally relevant”?

III. Slaves to Sin (vv.34-36)

- a. "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin." (v.34)

- i. What is the startling reality about “slavery” that Jesus revealed to the Jews then that is a present reality to us now?

- ii. Jesus is to be the only “Master” of the child of God and there should be no other.

- 1. “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.” (1 COR 6:12 NASB)
 - 2. “All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify.” (1 COR 10:23 NASB)
 - 3. “But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” (ROM 6:17-18 NASB)

- b. “The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.” (v.35)

- i. The slave may be born in the house, but he does not remain in the house.

- ii. The slave works outside and even if inside, he or she is still a slave and is not a part of “the family”, but one responsible for serving the needs of the family.
 - iii. The slave works to that end until they die, are sold or “freed” by the owner, which in many cases is the son after the father has died.
 - iv. The son (Son) however, remains in the house and has power and control over the affairs of the house and if he (He) declares that you are free, you are “free indeed”.
- c. “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” (v.36)
- i. The Jews thought in themselves that because they were _____ of Abraham that they were free.
 - ii. The Jews thought that they were _____, but in actuality they were _____ to sin as are all who have not been set _____ by the _____.
 - 1. “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.” (ROM 8:2 NASB)
 - 2. “It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.” (GAL 5:1 NASB)

IV. True Sons [Faith] vs False Sons [Unbelief] of Abraham (vv.37-40)

- a. “I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.” (v.37)
 - i. Jesus affirms their “blood-line”, which they saw as most important, but denies their true “son-ship”, which is paramount. The Apostle Paul said it best this way...
 - 1. “...although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a

persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,..." (PHIL 3:4-9 NASB)

- ii. He proves this by comparing their actions with that of "their father Abraham"

Who's Your Daddy?		
Abraham	The Jews (rulers)	Satan
Looked forward to the birth of the Son	Looked forward to the dead of the Son	Looked forward to the dead of the Son
Had faith in God (The Son)	Disbelieved the Son (God)	Disbelieved the Son (God)
Obedied the Word (The Son)	Disobeyed the Word (The Son)	Disobeyed the Word (The Son)
Believed, Trusted and had Hope in God (The Son)	Did not Believe, Trust or have Hope in God (The Son)	Did not Believe, Trust or have Hope in God (The Son)
Is a friend of God (The Son)	Is an Enemy of God (The Son)	Is an Enemy of God (The Son)

- b. "I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father." (v.38)
 - i. Jesus reveals the source of the things He speaks, namely _____ His Father.

- ii. Jesus reveals the source of the Jews' thoughts and actions, namely _____ their father.
- c. "...Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham" (v.39)
 - i. What is Jesus really saying to the Jews as it relates to Abraham being their father? *[discussion]*
 - _____
 - _____
 - ii. What Jesus was saying was, "If you are Abraham's children, but you are not, then you would act like Abraham did."
 - iii. "Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham....So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer...And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise." (GAL 3:7, 9, 29 NASB)
- d. "But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do." (v.40)
 - i. Despite the fact that they were/are descendants of Abraham they still wanted to kill Jesus
 - ii. They wanted to kill a man who "told [them] the truth"
 - iii. They wanted to kill a man who had the truth which He "heard from God"
 - iv. They wanted to kill a man who Abraham would not kill, but instead would be joyful and glad in His coming (v.56)
 - v. "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." (JOHN 8:56 NASB)

V. True Sons [Love] vs False Sons [Hate] of God (vv.41-43)

- a. "You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." (v.41)
 - i. The Jews may have been trying to imply that if anyone's legitimacy was in question, it wasn't theirs, it was His.

- ii. This may have been as a result of their knowledge of Jesus' mysterious "virgin birth", which they had probably chalked up to being a matter of "fornication" rather than a "miracle". Especially amongst the Sadducees. (Mt 1:18-25; Lk 1:26-38)
- b. "...If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me." (v.42)
 - i. In order to truly love _____ the Father one must also love _____ the Son.
 - ii. "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 JOHN 4:7-11 NASB)
 - iii. "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him." (1 JOHN 5:1 NASB)
- c. "Why do you not **understand** what I am saying? It is because you cannot **hear** My word." (v.43)
 - i. Jesus, being able to look into the hearts of men was not bewildered as to why the Jews could not understand, He Knew, but He wanted _____ to know and for _____ to know.
 - ii. "But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man." (JOHN 2:24-25 NASB)
 - iii. Jesus answers His own question for their benefit and for ours. (I COR 2:12-14)