

THE GOSPEL *of* JOHN

CHAPTER 8:31-47

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-389 NOVEMBER 12, 2000

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“The Truth Shall Make You Free”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

TOPICALLY SUBJECT SEARCH KEYWORDS:

Satan, Freedom, Slavery, Genealogy

Slavery is an awful thing. It robs a man, a woman of their identity and meaning. It crushes the human spirit. Slavery came into existence as nation-states began to develop and war against one another.

I have personally seen blacks and whites and yellows and browns and reds stand in silence before the **Lincoln memorial in Washington D.C.** as they read the passion of one man to risk a nation that all men might be free

**Slavery exists today and it will continue to exist
Until Jesus Christ returns to earth**

Matthew 24:7

For **nation** will rise against **nation**, and kingdom against kingdom.

But there is a Greater Slavery
that is responsible for all acts of slavery –
the slavery of sin

Sin is Bondage and Bondage Leads to Slavery

True Spiritual Knowledge Liberates Us From Sin's Bondage

The Truth Shall Make You Free

1.) *Who is a real Christian?*

vv. 31-33

in the ancient world, slavery was a part of life

just as many other places of the world are today. A slave was either born into slavery or went into slavery because of debt. Regardless, it was a total, unwilling commitment to the service of another.

The Early Church was Predominantly Jewish in Background. But with the GOOD NEWS of the gospel, more and more gentile slaves found freedom and family in the church through Jesus Christ.

Who is a real Christian?

a.) *one who longs for the presence of God*

v.31-32

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Having slavery in mind, one would have warmly embraced the message of “Abide in my Word”

Why? Because Powerful Truth was being Communicated Here.

A Slave Had **No Place** (abiding) of His Own
He had **No Fellowship** (abiding) of His Own

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who **abides** in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

#1

“Abiding”

"If you abide

to take up residence, to live with, dwell in and among

#2

“The Word”

"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed

IT WAS AN AWESOME, JOYOUS, AND EXCITING THING TO HEAR

The Good News of His Command

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;

John 14:15

"If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Because a slave could only be set free
by the word of his master

...and all of God's people said, Amen!!!

Verse 32

And you shall know the truth, and the truth
shall make you free."

Powerful Introduction is Made Here!!!

Jesus is saying

The Message I am Giving you is Truth

Jesus is Teaching That THE Truth is In Fact Himself

His Argument is this...

I Am THE Truth - Thus You are NOW Free!!!

Free From Slavery

Benefits are endless

Emotional freedom, Personal Freedom, Financial Freedom, Physical Freedom, Spiritual
Freedom

Who is a real Christian?

b.) one who knows the truth

v.33a

"They" (the religious leaders) answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and
have never been in bondage to anyone.

The “**They**” could be those in verses 25

Verse 25

Then they said to Him, "**Who are You?**"

And they are lying to Jesus

"We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone.

Because of Rebellion Against God,
Israel had been led into slavery and bondage numerous times.
Babylonians - Assyrians - Greeks - Egyptians

Pride Had Forgotten

They Were Under The Fist of
The Roman Empire
Who is a real Christian?

c.) one who is free

v.33b

How can you say, 'You will be made free?'

!! Yes!!

Jesus Says It – And it's Done

*Jesus, You said and I quote “You will be made Free”
That’s what you said Jesus didn’t you – YES I DID*

Matthew 8:5-8

5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." 7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." 8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.

Psalm 107:20

He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.

John 15:3-4

3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you.

How can you say, 'You will be made free'?"

Because that's what happens and that's the truth

The Truth Shall Make You Free

Who is a real Christian?

2.) *How does a real Christian live?*

vv. 34-38

FREE!

The difference between freedom and bondage is a matter of whether you are a servant or a son

a.) *Freed from the power of sin*

v.34-35

34 Jesus answered them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.**

A servant can live in a house,
But a servant can never be a son because of separation...

Romans 6:12-19

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

Romans 6:22-23

22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

How does a real Christian live?

b.) Freed to be liberated

v.36

**Therefore if The Son makes you free,
you shall be free indeed.**

When a Master Loved a Slave

The master would call a gathering and declare an “adoption”

According to Jewish life, when a wealthy Jewish son reached a certain age, the house slaves no longer had power over him. It was at that time that the SON could declare an adoption

The slave was pronounced “a son” and a “joint heir” of the family

Galatians 4:1-7

Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 And because you are

sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father! - Daddy" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Romans 8:14-17

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,

Again, The Early Church was Filled with Believing Slaves

Philemon 15-17

15 For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever, 16 no longer as a slave but more than a slave--a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

Romans 1:1

Paul, a bondservant (slave) of Jesus Christ,

Romans 16:1

I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

Philippians 1:1

Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,

Philemon 1

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus,

How does a real Christian live?

c.) Freed from our old nature

v.37-38

37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father."

Their Claim was inconsistent with their conduct

Verse 37

but you seek to kill Me,
BECAUSE My word has no place (dwelling) in you.

If anyone claims to be a child of Abraham and desires Jesus to be removed from the scene – that person is an infidel, a heretic

Jews and Muslims Alike

claim that they are children of Abraham

But No One Can Be a Child of Abraham without Receiving Jesus Christ
The Son

BECAUSE My word has no place (dwelling) in you.

**Violence, lawlessness and resistance
to what is good is a result of bondage**

Nature is Determined by Birth Origin Predicts Outcome

Romans 6:5-6

knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Colossians 3:5

5 **Mortify** therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Galatians 3:6-14

6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. 10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." 11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall

live by faith." 12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them." 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The Truth Shall Make You Free

3.) What does a real Christian do?

vv. 39-43

a.) Real Christians walk in faith

v.39-40

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, **"If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.**

Real Christians Walk in Faith

How do we do that?

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Colossians 3:15-16

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

What does a real Christian do?

b.) Real Christians walk in love

v.41-43

41 You do the deeds of your father." Then 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 came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.**

You do the deeds of your father (Satan)

Verse 41

Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication;
we have one Father--God."

The Jews Believed and do still that Abraham sinned when he had sex with Hagar the bond-servant of Sarah. The son born to Hagar was named Ishmael the bond-son.

Galatians 4:28-31

But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." 31 **So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.**

The Truth Shall Make You Free

4.) *What does a real Christian look like?* vv. 44-47

THE Sharp Contrast – The Children of the Devil

a.) *Opposite of what the world looks like*

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Galatians 5:21-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Murder in paradise

and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him...

Ezekiel 28:2-19

"Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas, 'Yet you are a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart as the heart of a god 3(Behold, you are wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you! 4 With your wisdom and your understanding You have gained riches for yourself, And gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; 5 By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, And your heart is lifted up because of your riches)," 6'Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Because you have set your heart as the heart of a God...7 Behold, therefore, I will bring strangers against you, The most terrible of the nations; And they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom, And defile your splendor. 8 They shall throw you down into the Pit, And you shall die the death of the slain In the midst of the seas. 9 "Will you still say before him who slays you, 'I am a god'? But you shall be a man, and not a god, In the hand of him who slays you. 10 You shall die the death of the uncircumcised By the hand of aliens; For I have spoken," says the Lord GOD.' " 11 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. 16 "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. 18 "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. 19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever." ' ' "

Isaiah 14:12-17

12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven ,I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest

depths of the Pit. 16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, 17 Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?'

What does a real Christian look like?

b.) Opposite of what unbelief looks like v.45

But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?

What does a real Christian look like?

c.) Opposite of what the lost look like v.47

He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

Those Who Have Suffered Greatly, Know God Deeply
In Our Nation / Europe The Stories of Black Slavery Have Inspired Me

In early America, Jesus was all the blacks had for comfort and security

They sang songs about heaven, peace, rest, love,
About MASTER JESUS

What blinds people – *The Devil*

2 Corinthians 4:2-4

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded,

What blinds people – *Religious Pride*

What blinds people

– *Our sin Nature*

What blinds people

– *Our own Opinions*

What blinds people

– *The world System*