

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
"The Only Hope for Freedom"
John 8:13-8:59 (page 746)

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Jesus confronts prideful unbelief by affirming that His message is:

- about freedom, not enslavement (vs 31-32)
- about faith, not religion (vs 33-41)
- about truth, not lies (vs 42-47)
- the reality of Jesus, not your opinion about Him (vs 48-59)

Insights to get hold of...

Jesus desires more than intellectual assent from His followers, He desires true disciples who will take part in Him.

There is no better intimacy than intimacy with Jesus and following Him, that is the place of true freedom.

As the *Light of the World*, we can trust Jesus to reveal and define our need and be the One who will meet our need.

Growth Group
Sermon Study Helps
John 8:31-59 (Week Twenty)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

As we pick up in chapter 8:31, we find that the Jews are still engrossed in the darkness of their unbelief and hostility toward the Light of the world, Jesus. Our Lord now directly confronts their unbelief with regard to their ethnic blindness, their religious blindness, their Satanic blindness and their blindness about God the Father and therefore, Jesus Himself. By the end of our chapter they are ready to kill Jesus by stoning Him - which indicates the depth of their unbelief and spiritual darkness. Things are really heating up for Jesus and the Cross is looming larger on the horizon. Jesus offers them sight and freedom from their blindness and bondage, but their ignorance refuses to be swayed by His truth.

Discussion Questions

Was there anything said on Sunday that got your attention or that you have a question about?

How can one really be a true disciple of Jesus? What are His criteria according to vs 31-32?

What does it mean to "*hold to His teachings*"? What is the "*truth*"? (cf 1Pet 1:24-25; John 17:17; 14:6) What is the *result* of knowing the truth?

What does Jesus mean when He speaks of being "*free*" in this passage? (v 32, 36) How is a slave different from a son?

What are evidences that people are enslaved to sin? Why are people oblivious to their slavery to sin? Why is Jesus alone able to free them?

Read vs 37-41...On what basis did Jesus deny that these people were true "children" of Abraham (as opposed to being his physical descendants/offspring/seed)?

Read vs 41b-47...on what basis did Jesus deny that these people were children of God and claim that they were children of the devil?

How is the devil a "*liar from the beginning*"? (Gen 3:1-5) In what way was he a "*murderer*"? (Gen 2:16-17; 3:1-7; 4:1-12)

How did the Jews reveal their ignorance of God's redemptive plan through Abraham? What did Jesus teach them about Abraham's joy, which could also be theirs? (vs 48-59)

How is John's theme of *darkness* and *light* played out, or evident, in this section of Scripture?

Taking it to the streets....

Jesus says we are His followers only as we continue to hold to His teaching and obey Him (Luke 14:25-35; John 15:1-17). Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the power to obey Him today

From what do you need Jesus to set you free from today? Ask Him to help you gain freedom today.