

## Free Indeed

John 8:30-36

9/05/04

### Intro

The verses we are studying today touch on truths that apply to each one of us. It's about being free.

Many people do not understand what freedom means. Most people believe it means to do whatever you feel like doing. ***But you can do what you feel and still be a slave to your feelings.***

Jesus said that anyone who sins is a slave to sin – you cannot choose life. Only in Jesus are we free to choose life.

In these verses, Jesus gives us one of the greatest truths in scripture; that ***the truth will set us free.***

***These verses will give us insight into being made free by knowing the truth and having the truth set us free.***

### **I. Freedom Begins with Believing**

#### A. Because believing empowers lies

- Lies have no power unless they are believed.

**Illus – Adam and Eve believed Lucifer's lies and were defeated.**

**Genesis 3:4-5, The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”**

- John wrote the Gospel of John for the one purpose that we might believe...

**John 20:31, “but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”**

- Verse 30 – Many came to believe on Jesus.

#### B. Believing His Word

- This was a constant theme of the Lord, that they would believe His Word...

**1 Thessalonians 2:13, For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.”**

- We will see that Jesus connects being free with His Word.

**Matthew 22:29, But Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.”**

## II. **Abiding is More Than Believing**

### A. Abide in His Word

- To believe His Word is the beginning point, to abide in His Word, you go beyond believing.
- **To abide** is to dwell there, to live there.

**Illus – you abide in your home. It’s where you go for refuge, and refreshing, for nourishing, for relationship.**

**Ephesians 3:16-19, “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”**

- Jesus also gives us a picture of being planted in Him, and life comes from being hidden in Christ.
- Being planted in God’s Word is what brings life.

### B. That His Word will abide in you

- Vs 37 – **“My Word has no place in you.”**

- Does His Word have a place in you? Does His Word make a difference in your life?
- Does the Word of God rule over your opinions or actions?

**Colossians 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”**

**Illus – The Word of God is to be planted in our hearts like seed in good soil.**

**Luke 8:15, “But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the Word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”**

### C. Then you will truly be disciples

- Jesus seems to be suggesting that there are two kinds of disciples;
  - *The first are not true disciples; they outwardly conform, but in their heart, they really do not believe.*
  - *Then, others abide in His Word and His Word abides in them. They are committed in their hearts.*
- But there is an important truth in what Jesus was saying.

**John 14:23-24, Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our**

abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words;”

### III. Then You Will Know the Truth

- Knowing the truth is the key to being free. Jesus makes the connection in the following verses.

#### A. Lies are powerful

- Lies can destroy someone’s life.

**Illus – Billy Graham has made a decision that because of how God has used him, he must be careful to not give the enemy an opportunity, so he will not even enter an elevator if it means that he would be alone with a woman.**

- The enemy is a liar, the father of lies, and a liar from the beginning.

**Revelation 12:9-10, And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.”**

**Illus – lies can keep people in a prison.**

**Isaiah 61:1, “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners;”**

#### B. You must know the truth

- Pontius Pilate asked a question that rings through the centuries...”what is truth?”

**John 18:37-38, Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”**

- The truth is a person, who was standing before Pilate.
- Jesus is the truth and His Word is true because that is His nature.

**Illus – the devil speaks lies out of his own nature (Vs 44).**

- **If you abide in His Word, you will know the truth.**

#### C. The truth will set you free

- If lies keep us in prison, the truth is that which sets us free.

- Truth nullifies a lie.

**Illus - The enemy loves to lie about us, so we must know what God believes to know the truth.**

**Galatians 5:1, “It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”**

- In Christ, we are free from fear, from condemnation, from sin’s power over us, free to live as God called us to live.

Conclusion

**He who the Son sets free is free indeed.**