

## Week 20

### Freedom in Jesus web notes

John 8: 31

Notice this word "if"; it is a Greek word in the subjunctive, meaning Jesus is saying maybe you will abide in my word, maybe you won't abide in my word, but if you do, that will prove you are my disciples. Are you abiding in His Word? Do you read it every day? Do you make your decisions and guide your life by the principles of God's Word?

John 8:32

And you shall know the truth and the truth will make you free. Knowing the truth means knowing God's revelation of Himself to man. This revelation is Jesus, the Word, therefore to know the truth is to know Jesus. Knowing the truth means accepting it, obeying it and valuing it above all earthly opinion. This is what gives true freedom, spiritual freedom, freedom from sin and death. They responded,

John 8:33

Was this true? Had they ever been enslaved? They conveniently forgot that the Jewish people had been enslaved over and over; to Babylon, Assyria, and now they were under the domination of Rome.

There is other slavery as well; there is slavery to work, slavery to selfishness, slavery to things, craving for pleasure and excitement, slavery to gambling, gluttony, rebelliousness, there are many tyrants. Each one has a crowd of unhappy prisoners, bound hand and foot. These folks will say they are free, but they know better. There is no slavery like this; sin is the hardest taskmaster of all. Misery and disappointment now, despair and hell in the end, these are the wages sin pays.

John 8:34-35

Jesus' response clears the misunderstanding; His subject is sin and this was the enslavement He referenced. Jesus can set them and us free from this enslavement.

John 8:36

What does this liberty mean? Only believers have this liberty. Free from the guilt and consequences of sin by the blood of Christ. Justified, pardoned, forgiven, looking forward to

Liberty like this is the reward of all true believers in the day they turn to Christ by faith and commit their souls to Him. That day they become free.

John 8:37

The Jews had claimed to be Abraham's offspring and Jesus said that they claim to be Abraham's sons but He responds;

John 8:38

Jesus said, they are not Abraham's sons.

How does He explain that they are not Abraham's sons?

John 8:39-40

How can He prove they are not sons of Abraham? He said since they are seeking to kill Him it proves that Abraham is not their father because Abraham would not do this.

John 8:41

And now they claim God as their Father.

John 8:42

What did Jesus say they would do if God were their Father? They would love Him.

John 8:43-44

Now Jesus has given the reasons why they cannot hear or understand what He is saying. Again those reasons are; they are not sons of Abraham, they are not sons of God. They have a different father, the devil.

What do we know about the devil? Jesus is speaking of him as a real and living person whose object is to ruin us forever and kill our souls and rob us of eternal life. When we are born again by the Holy Spirit he cannot kill us but he can deceive us, telling us that good is evil and evil is good, truth is falsehood and falsehood is truth, the broad way where everyone is good and the narrow way is, narrow. Millions are lead into captivity by his deceit

and follow him, rich and poor, educated and uneducated. How did Jesus describe the devil? He was a murderer from the beginning (think of Cain killing Able his brother), there is no truth in him-the devil is a liar, and he is the father of liars. Lies are his chosen weapons. These are terrible things to consider; but they are true. Do not sneer and scoff and deny the existence of the very one who is invisibly leading to hell. Jesus is on our side and the bible says; "greater is He Who is in you than he that is in the world." And James 4:7 Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Notice how lying and murdering are specially mentioned as characteristics of the devil. Are you indifferent to the sin of lying? This is an indication of an ungodly position; it is not the activity of one who is abiding in Christ.

What is he telling these Jews; they are murderers, they are liars in the same way the devil is who is the father of liars.

John 8:45

Again Jesus tells them He speaks truth

What further truth does Jesus reveal?

John 8:48

How did the Jews react to this; That old saying "if you don't like the message, kill the messenger" comes to mind. Name calling usually means the adversary has run out of intelligent argument.

John 8:49-50

Calling Him names and accusing Him. How does Jesus respond to this accusation? He patiently continues to try to teach these hardhearted people and gives them a priceless truth

John 8:51-52

Just think, He is offering them eternal life, all they have to do is keep His Words, that is abide/obey. Those who follow Christ and obey His word will be raised to eternal life. For Him to offer them eternal life meant He was claiming to be divine. The Jews response is predictable; don't you wonder if any of them were beginning to waver?

They attack Him again,

John 8:53

Isn't it obvious that He is claiming to be greater than Abraham? All through the discussion He has been making a claim, what is it?

John 8:54-55

Jesus deferred the matter of his divine identity to His relationship with His Father. He could never make the claims they had heard apart from His Father. If He had come on His own, His glory would be worthless, but the Father had sent Him and the Father would glorify Him, even if the Jews didn't.

John 8:56

Isn't it amazing to hear that Abraham, who had been dead and buried for 1850 years had seen the LORD'S Day. As Abraham looked forward in faith, he was glad. No doubt, Abraham did not understand all he saw ahead in the prophecies God gave him but he did see a Redeemer and he was glad. I am thinking of Abraham's words to his son Isaac, "God will provide Himself with a Lamb for the sacrifice". Genesis 22:8

Remember that there has never been but one way of salvation, one Savior, and one hope for sinners and that Abraham and all the Old Testament saints understood that by faith we are saved.

Jesus has claimed over and over that God sent Him, and He is claiming to be God. Jesus makes it plain that His purpose is to glorify God and He makes it plain that they do not know God. You have not come to know Him, but I know Him. And He repeats this truth, which is the central message of this passage of Scripture; He repeats that He is God,

John 8:57

So they asked Him how He could have seen Abraham  
He says

John 8:58

He says He existed before Abraham, He states that He is God. How do we know that He means He is God when He says "I AM"? Turn back to Exodus 3:13-15 Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to

you". Now they may say to me, 'What is His Name?' What shall I say to them?" God said to Moses I AM WHO I AM; and He said 'Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you". God furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD, the GOD of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial Name to all generations." Note this, to all generations, which means forever. The Name "I AM" denotes self-existence and is the sacred Name which the Jews never spoke. He had earlier made this claim, John 8:28. God referred to Himself this way in at least 6 passages in Isaiah as well, for instance; Isaiah 48:12 "Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: I Am He, I AM the First, I AM also the last". Jesus also calls Himself the "First and the Last" in Revelation 1:17. Friends no other religious leader has ever made claims such as these. His claim to deity demands a response, it cannot be ignored. Did they know He was claiming to be God? Yes, we know they did because of their response

John 8:59

Stoning was the punishment for blasphemers and they are accusing Him of this sin when in reality they were the blasphemers because they were attacking the God they claimed to serve.

Blaspheming means cursing or reviling God which they supposed Jesus was doing by referring to Himself as God. Jesus hid Himself or was hidden, why? Because His hour had not yet come.