

Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John

October 11th, 2020

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Free Indeed (John 8:31-59)

1. What Jesus Offers (vv. 31-32)

2. Why We don't Want it (vv. 33, 39, 41)

3. Why We Need It (vv. 34-59)

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. When was the last time you felt torn between two conflicting desires and couldn't make a decision? What did you end up doing? Why?

For Further Thought and Discussion:

3. What does Jesus say to those who had "*believed in him*" (v. 30)? What litmus test does he offer to determine whether our faith is genuine (v. 31)? What "*truth*" do we come to know by abiding in Jesus' words (v. 32; see John 14:6)? How does the crowd respond to Jesus? What does their response reveal about their faith (v. 33; see also John 2:24-25; 4:44-45)?
4. Why are the crowds unwilling to accept that they are enslaved (v. 33)? Why do they repeatedly tell Jesus that Abraham is their father (vv. 33, 39, 41)? What point are they trying to make? Why are people in our culture resistant to the idea that we are slaves? Why are they resistant to Jesus' teaching, and the type of freedom he offers?
5. How do our internal desires demonstrate that we aren't truly "*free*" (v. 34; see also Romans 7:21-23; Galatians 5: 16-17; James 1:13-15)? What kind of redemption does Jesus think we need? Why is he the only one qualified to provide it (see vv. 35-36; 51)?
6. What does Jesus declare about himself in verse 58? What point is he making about himself? Why do the Jews respond the way they do (v. 59)?

Application:

7. Today we often define freedom negatively; as "*freedom from*" external constraints. But the biblical writers also define freedom positively; as "*freedom for*" God's purposes. How does this change our understanding of what true freedom really is? Why is obedience to Jesus the only way to experience real freedom?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?