

LESSON 15: JOHN 8:31-59
AUGUST 15, 2018

OVERVIEW

- . Jesus as the source of freedom – John 8:31-59

JESUS AS THE SOURCE OF FREEDOM – JOHN 8:31-59

- . Two statements of Jesus regarding discipleship and freedom – John 8:31-32
 - . The conditions of discipleship – John 8:31
 - . True belief expresses itself in action
 - . True discipleship involves holding to His teachings
 - . One of the key ways to truly better understand Christ's teaching is through the study of His Word
 - . If you are not making a commitment to reading and studying scripture, then are you truly committing yourself to Christ?
 - . How can a person profess to keep His Word if they are refusing to take the time to read and study it
 - . The first key step in discipleship is making the commitment to studying His word so that one can better understand it
 - . As one grows in their understanding, it's imperative that one is committed to incorporating God's Word in to our everyday life and everyday actions
 - . The words of Jesus represent the person of Jesus
 - . His words truly lead us to Him
 - . The promise of freedom to true discipleship – John 8:32
 - . When we allow the Holy Spirit to help us interpret God's Word and guide us in to all spiritual truths, the result will be a new found strength that will free us from fear, worry and wrong habits
 - . Ultimately, we will feel the freedom to love and express our full personality as God intended when He created us
- . Six Jewish arguments and Jesus' replies – John 8:33-58
 - . Six times during the remainder of this discourse, the Jews interrupted Christ – the first three are uttered in self-defense, the last three are direct attacks against the person of Jesus
 - . The first Jewish argument and Jesus' reply – John 8:33-38
 - . The Jews argued they are Abraham's descendents and have never been slaves or in bondage to anyone
 - . The Jews are applying Jesus' words to the physical world

- . Even when applied to the physical world, the Jews are wrong because their ancestors had been slaves
- . Jesus answers by saying that anyone who has sinned has become a slave to sin – He is referring to the unregenerate condition of all people at that time
 - . “Often I am not able to do what I basically want to do; instead I am driven to obey the sinful impulse that is part of my nature” – Romans 7:14-23
 - . He is giving them a dire warning that slaves to sin have no permanent home in the family
 - . Descending from Abraham, alone, does not automatically make them children of God
- . The second argument and Jesus’ reply – John 8:39-40
 - . The Jews argue that Abraham is their father
 - . Jesus answers that true sons of Abraham would do what Abraham did
 - . Abraham had faith and believed God’s promise of a Seed that would produce a great nation and eventually the Messiah
 - . True sons of Abraham would share the same faith and would not be trying to kill the Messiah
- . The third Jewish argument and Jesus’ reply – John 8:41-47
 - . Jews argue they are not illegitimate children; God is their Father
 - . Jesus answers that the devil, not God, is their father
 - . Jesus is pointing out that if their father was God, they would hear the truth that Jesus speaks and would love Him, because God loves Him
 - . The fact that they are unable to hear and see the truth is evidence that their father is the father of lies, the devil, who was a murderer from the beginning not holding to the truth
- . The fourth Jewish argument switches from defending themselves to attacking Jesus – John 8:48-51
 - . Here the Jews argue that Jesus is a Samaritan and demon possessed
 - . Jesus counters the insult with a plain statement of fact that he is not demon-possessed
 - . He goes on to say he is not seeking any sort of glory, merely honoring his Father who will ultimately be the judge
 - . He states again that anyone who seeks and follows Jesus will also be judged in a way that will never see death
- . The fifth argument and Jesus’ reply – John 8:52-56
 - . The Jews argue that Abraham and the prophets died, yet Jesus claims that whoever believes in Him will never die – just who does Jesus think he is
 - . Jesus is claiming that his glory is coming from the Father, the One they claim to know, but really don’t
 - . Jesus simply says to claim anything less would be a lie
 - . He goes on to say that Abraham is rejoicing at seeing this day

- . The last Jewish argument and Jesus' replay – John 8:57-58
 - . The Jews argue that Jesus is not yet fifty years old but claims to have seen Abraham
 - . Here Jesus makes the strongest claim yet for his true position in God's kingdom, at His right hand
 - . "Very truly I tell you that before Abraham was born, I am"
 - . Before Abraham was born, Jesus was already existing as the great I Am of Jewish spiritual history
 - . This is one of the most categorical statements concerning His preexistence and divinity that Jesus ever uttered
- . The culminating reaction of unbelief: picking up stones to stone Him – John 8:59
 - . Instead of the Jews seeing and embracing the truth, they choose to see the most horrible blasphemy of the name of the Lord
 - . Therefore, in accordance with the ancient law of Leviticus 24:16, they picked up stones to stone their Messiah, Jesus
 - . Jesus, knowing it was not yet His Father's timing, slipped away without getting hurt

NEXT LESSON: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018 – JOHN 9