

embracing freedom

John 8:31-36

Q: What will you do with your freedom?

I. The Offer of Freedom (John 8:31-32)

Abide in the Truth

- [a] Discipleship is more than a one-time decision, it's a lifelong commitment.
- [b] Knowing the truth is not merely mental; it is relational: Jesus is the truth! [John 14:6]
- [c] God's Word shapes our identity, priorities, and daily agenda. [Psalm 119:105]
- [d] If His words abide in us, we bear fruit and glorify God. [John 15:7-8]
- [e] When the truth abides in us it brings to our lives grace, mercy, and peace. [2 John 1:1-3]

*You cannot live in true freedom
without living in God's truth*

II. The Promise of Freedom (John 8:33-34)

Set Free From Sin [Romans 6:16-23]

- [a] Sin promises freedom but delivers bondage.
- [b] The more we feed it, the more it controls us.
- [c] Real freedom is not the right to do what we want, but the power to do what is right.

*True freedom delivers you from sin
and to righteousness*

III. The Truth of Freedom (John 8:35-36)

Free Indeed in Christ

- [a] Security in Christ [John 10:27-28]
- [b] Belonging to God [1 John 3:1]
- [c] Restored by Grace [Luke 15:20-24]

*Freedom in Christ means we are
no longer bound by sin, guilt, or legalism.*

[John 8:31-32] So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, [ch. 15:7, 8; 2 John 9]³² and you will know the truth, [2 John 1] and the truth will set you free." [Romans 6:18-23, 8:2; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Gal. 5:1, 13-15; James 1:25; 2:12; 1 Pet. 2:16]

[John 8:33-34] They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" [set free from sin]³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin." [Romans 6:16-20; Titus 3:3; 2 Peter 2:19]

[Luke 19:1-4] [Jesus and Zacchaeus] Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for he was about to pass that way.

[Luke 19:5-6] And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.

[Luke 19:7] And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."

[Luke 19:8] [IRONY] And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."

[Luke 19:9-10] [Focus of the Ministry of Jesus]

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

[John 8:35-36]³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; [Genesis 21:10; Galatians 4:30] the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. [Luke 15:31]

[Luke 15:20-24] And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

Discussion Questions/Prayer

1. Read John 8:31-32 and Psalm 119:105. How does abiding in God's truth shape your daily life and help you experience true freedom?
2. Read John 8:33-34 and Romans 6:16-23. What does freedom in Christ mean to you, and how does it deliver you from sin and lead you to righteousness?
3. Pray asking God to help you embrace your freedom in Christ every day.
4. Pray thanking God for His promises to see you, care about you, love you, and forgive you.