

Are You A True Disciple?

John 8:30-36 ³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him. ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ 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?’” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

❖ Intro

- **The Importance of the Purpose of this book as stated by John**
 - Never more important, than right here... as we look at what Jesus is saying here
 - John 20:31 ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- **Remember what is at stake:**
 - Dying in your sins...
- **Oh The Importance of these verses.... Of understanding this truth**
- **These verses are so deep in truth.... That we must take our time to understand it...**
 - So, it will take two weeks to go through them...
 - I really want to be thorough with this...
 - I really want you to grasp what Jesus is saying...
- **At first reading...**
 - You may say.... Oh yeah... I get it, I understand it...
 - But when you read what comes before and after and in the middle...
 - And start asking questions ... Start asking Jesus what He means by this or that...
 - It gets deep in a hurry

❖ Recap

- 1) The Hearers Lack understanding and belief
- 2) Jesus Explains to them Who He is
- 3) Jesus Warns them of the consequences of their unbelief
- 4) Jesus shows them a way of escape

❖ Today

- 1) We are Enslaved
- 2) Not All Who Believe are True Disciples
- 3) Continuing in the Word of Jesus Means You Are a True Disciple
- 4) Continuing in the Word of Jesus Leads to Knowing the Truth
- 5) Knowing the Truth Leads to Freedom from Slavery

❖ #1 We Are Enslaved

- **Jesus and the Jews dialogue:**
 - ³³ 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?’” ³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
- **These that believe object**
 - They tell Jesus they are not slaves...
 - And they were speaking probably of religious freedom....
 - Saying that no matter who they had been ruled by as a country,
 - They have always been free to serve their God...

- But Jesus sees it differently....
- **What kind of slaves are we?**
 - The Greek word used here is – Doulos
 - Meaning more than just a servant... a proper definition would be
 - A Bond Slave, someone one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will being altogether consumed in the will of the other
 - Bond Slaves were slaves for life.... Only death could separate them from their slavery
- **How do we become enslaved : Commits sin**
 - I take this to mean, a life of sin...
 - All of us in here, either have been or are currently a slave to sin...
- **So.... What are we slaves to?**
 - Jesus says here... that it is sin...
 - This means that sin is our Master...
- **We are born into Slavery...**
 - When Adam sinned, and passed His sin down to the rest of mankind....
 - Men fell into a slavery to sin...
 - And it has manifested itself in many forms...
 - Greed, Corruption, Murder, Sexual Immorality, Hatred, Selfishness
 - And overall worship of Self and false gods
 - And a direct disobedience to God....
- **Objection:**
 - I am free.... Following all these rules from God is what keeps a person from being free...
 - I am free to do whatever I want to do...
 - If a person objects to this, I just say test yourself....
 - See if you can go without sin...
 - No, your sinful passions rule you... whatever they may be... they tell you what to do...
 - Sure you may like them very much...
 - But they rule your life...
- **Jesus is telling this group...**
 - They are slaves... They are slaves to their sin.... And He is telling us the same thing...
 - If we commit sin, we are a slave to it...
- **What is the end result of our slavery**
 - **Our Slavery leads to our death in slavery...**
 - John 8:24 ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”
 - **End Result:** Eternal Death and Damnation that is Separation from God
 - Jesus even says to them, if they die in their sins... that where He is going, they can not come
- **To be clear...**
 - **You Can be set free from slavery to sin, and death in slavery to sin that leads to hell**
 - This is what Jesus is trying to tell them...
 - He can set them free...
- **To the Christian that struggles with Sin...**
 - First... you have to truly be a disciple to be set free...
 - Jesus is going to teach you this...
 - But I wanted to just briefly hit on this so you will not be confused...
 - **If, A person is a True Disciple:**
 - From this text it means they abide, or remain, or continue permanently in the Word of Christ
 - Then this person will know the truth, and the truth will set this person free...

- So, the true believer is no longer a slave to sin.... And especially the end result of our slavery
- **You say: But I sin, and I thought I was saved...**
 - But I say... You are free from it...
 - ◆ Doesn't mean you never do it...
 - You have been given the freedom from being ruled by it.
 - Your Genuine Belief in Jesus has given you forgiveness from your sins that enslaved you
 - God has given you this gift to break free from it
 - God has given you power...
 - He has given you the truth of His word to fight it... to defeat it...
 - You will know the truth of sin...
 - You only have to take the time to kill it... To use the weapons at your disposal...
- **God has purposely allowed us to live in our body that desires sinful things...**
 - But He has given us a new nature....
 - And this new nature is completely opposed to the old nature...
 - And God wants us to fight... And He wants us to grow in our faith through our fight against sin
- **None of us could honestly say, if we have been saved...**
 - That we just had to sin.... We had no choice...
 - That would not be true after the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us...
- **Before: It ruled over us...**
 - And its greatest power in ruling over us, was our ignorance of its true nature
 - But when the Son of God came into our lives, He broke that ignorance of its nature
 - And has revealed the truth of His word
 - And we are very aware of sin...
- **Do not go back to your former master.... He is no longer your master...**
- **You will see in these verses how abiding in Jesus, in His Word,**
 - will lead us to truth, that will lead us to being set free...
 - You will see the process of sanctification in what Jesus is saying...

❖ #2 Not All who believe are True Disciples

- ³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
- Disciple- Learner... it even goes as far as meaning follower or apprentice
- **Jesus is saying... there are some people that will be disciples... and they will be true disciples**
 - Yet there will be others who will just believe, but then never be a true disciple...
- **Those that believed on Him were not necessarily gonna die and go to heaven**
 - If you will notice: There is a huge problem here in ch. 8. Some of those who believed
 - Are later called Sons of the Devil...
 - That is a big problem... Very big...
 - **Look:**
 - ◆ As he was saying these things, many believed in him. ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word
 - ◆ They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham
 - ◆ ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
 - ◆ John 8:37-41 ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.

- ◆ ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”
- ◆ ³⁹ They answered him, “Abraham is our father.”
- ◆ Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did,
- ◆ ⁴⁰ but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.
- ◆ ⁴¹ You are doing the works your father did.”
- ◆ John 8:44 ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires.
- ◆ John 8:45-46 ⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.
- ◆ ⁴⁶ Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?

➤ How Sobering is this?

- I did not like it when I read these things...
 - They believed, but they did not believe...
 - I have actually been praying through this point for the past month...
 - Oh, What a burden this is to me...
 - Oh, how I long for people to truly know Jesus
- **What is going on here?**
 - The quick version is... There were some in the crowd of believers that probably ended up being true disciples
 - But there were many in the crowd of believers who would not, and their belief was short lived...
 - ◆ Therefore it was artificial

➤ Understanding Believing

- There are some kinds of believing that: Doesn’t Always Result in Eternal Life

➤ Understand it in light of the parable of the Sewer

- **A Farmer... or Sower goes out to sow some seeds...**
 - Some fall on the path that is hard and the birds pick it up
 - Some fall on the rocky ground and it sprouts up quickly, but it has not root, so the sun scorches
 - Some fall in thorny ground and it comes up, but is choked out by the weeds
 - Some fall in the good ground and it comes up and bears much fruit....
 - ◆ Then Jesus explains the parable to His disciples...
- Mark 4:14-20 ¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶ And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸ And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²⁰ But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”
 - **So Jesus explains, that not everyone who hears the word of God gets saved**
 - ◆ Some never believe
 - ◆ Some believe, but fall away when trials come their way
 - They say, I did not sign up for this
 - I thought being a follower of Jesus would mean pleasant things all the time
 - My life is still tough, still have bills to pay, people are still difficult
 - My relationships are not always easy

- I do not want to be the odd one out for making a stand for Jesus
 - ◆ **Some believe but are never fruitful, proving their faith to be in vain**
 - Worldly things are more important
 - Desires for ungodly things....
 - **Money comes before God...**
 - He says deceitfulness of riches... This does not mean that having a lot of money
 - You could be a person of little means and be deceived by riches...
 - Means the word is being choked out... There were plenty of rich Christians
 - Still are...
 - Deceitfulness of riches... They want their money more than they want to be pleasing to God...
 - They hold on to their money... they are not givers...
 - What do you think gambling is...
 - How many of us find it easier to buy lottery tickets or to gamble
 - Than to give our tithe... Therefore leaving the burdens of the church to the few faithful....
 - What do you think we are doing when we buy junk food or fast food, or eat out
 - And then do not have money to tithe...
 - We are being deceived by riches...
 - Don't shoot the messenger...
- **In John (When believing is not believing)**
 - Not the first time this has happened in the book of John...
 - John 2:23-25 ²³ Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people ²⁵ and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.
 - John 6:26 ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.
 - These people were following and believing in Jesus because they saw worldly advancement for themselves in it...
 - **One More Sad Case....**
 - ◆ John 12:42-43 ⁴² Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.
 - ◆ These folks did not believe unto eternal life...
 - ◆ Their belief was choked out by their love for man's glory, not God's
- **Within our modern day church**
 - Many have believed... Yet never been saved... Happens in every church I have ever been in
 - Happens all over the world in churches... And I hate it... And I try to make the Word clear
 - When a person comes before the church saying they have come to know Jesus
 - They want to be baptized... sometimes...
 - They want their sins forgiven...
 - Maybe they came to be saved because the people around them did it...
 - So it was popular...
 - But, they fade away quickly... They do not continue coming...
 - They get upset with someone, so find an excuse not to come...
 - Their belief was in the Church, not the Savior of the church
 - Maybe they come for a while

- But eventually when the preacher keeps preaching on being holy as God is Holy
- They love worldly things so much more... so they revel in that...

➤ A Difference Noted

▪ Listen closely

- Jesus had some particularly hard things to say...
- The going got tough for many of those who were walking with Him
- The Crowd that had been fed.... Look at what happened to them
 - ◆ John 6:66-69 ⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."
- **The True Disciple puts all His chips in...**
 - ◆ He is going to devote His life to Jesus... not just part of it...
 - ◆ Judas serves as an example of a believer who did not believe...
 - He believed and followed Jesus for a while...
 - But when Jesus was not what He wanted Jesus to be, He turned on Him...
 - And then it was too late for Judas

➤ A Quick Note here:

- This is why being armed with proper skills for reading the Bible is so important
- This is why taking the Bible as a whole is so important
- This is why you can not just look at one word, or one verse and have it stand a lone...
- You need to read the Bible in context... Because you can be thrown for a loop if you do not...
- This is the same really for any book or letter you want to read...
- It is important to understand the intention of the writer...

❖ #3 Continuing in the Word of Jesus Means You Are a True Disciple

- "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,

➤ If You – A conditional statement...

- Abide – remain, continue in, live in permanently...
- Word – the Teaching, and gospel of Jesus..., In His person, who He is...
- Disciple – A learner, or follower of Jesus
- He is saying: If you do this.... Then you are a true disciple...
 - We have already made the point that not all who have a belief... are true disciples..

➤ First... Let me Tell you that this answers the Friction throughout the Bible

- Concerning those who fall away... Concerning those that once claimed to be in the Faith
- **There is a warning to all who claim the name of Jesus as being a Christian...**
 - Watch yourselves... if you fall away.... Then you will not have eternal life...
 - If you take scripture out of context... and single our verses, instead of using entire Bible...
 - You may think one could look His salvation...
- **When You Read some verses you may think this... like these:**
 - Hebrews 3:12 ¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.
 - ◆ Look closely... there is an unbelieving heart... not truly saved
 - Hebrews 6:4-8 ⁴ For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. ⁷ For land that has drunk the rain that often

falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. ⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

- These people are summed up by John:
 - ◆ 1 John 2:19 ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.
- There is certainly that warning there... and we should all heed the warning, and never forget
 - ◆ Jesus says himself,
 - ◆ John 16:1 ¹ "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.

➤ **Big question.... What does He mean by abide? ...**

- I know the definition... I know what it means, but what does it mean...
- And what does He mean by "His Word"?
- It seemed appropriate to let the rest of the Bible answer this...
 - Particularly John the Apostle... and how He used it throughout His writings...
- 1) You Must Believe
 - John 5:38 ³⁸ and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.
- 2) Continue in Fellowship with Jesus, and Feast on the Word of God
 - John 6:56 ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.
- 3) Bearing True Consistent Fruit Proves our Abiding
 - John 15:4-5 ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- 4) Keeping His Commandments
 - John 15:10 ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
- 5) Walking in His Ways
 - 1 John 2:6 ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.
- 6) Loving Your Brother... Like Christ Loved
 - 1 John 2:10 ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.
- 7) The Basics of the Gospel are Remembered
 - 1 John 2:24 ²⁴ Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.
- 8) Doesn't make sin a practice
 - 1 John 3:6 ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.
- 9) Cares about those in need
 - 1 John 3:17-18 ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.
- 10) We Have the Holy Spirit Living Within
 - 1 John 4:13 ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
- 11) Lives out His Confession that Jesus is the Son of God

- 1 John 4:15¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

- 12) Remains Permanently in the Teachings of Christ

- 2 John 9⁹ Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

➤ **Summary: Abiding means that Jesus and His way remain precious and important to You**

- Please don't have a low view of precious and important

➤ **What are the opportunities we have to NOT abide in Jesus (His Word)**

- In the Face of Persecution or Embarrassment
- In the Face of Trials
- In the Face of Temptations
- In the Face of our Beliefs

❖ 4) Continuing Leads to knowing the Truth



❖ 5) Knowing the Truth Leads to Freedom