

## John 8:31-36 – Perception and Reality

*So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup> 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’?”*

*<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

1. What stands out to you as the main point of this passage? Through your reading and reflecting on this passage and the message on Sunday, what has God been laying on your heart?
2. How do you think our culture defines freedom? How would you define freedom differently?
3. Read the Jews’ response to Jesus in v.33. What does this response show us about humanity’s ability to see our condition accurately? What is Jesus trying to help these Jews and us to see about our own story and our own heart condition?

*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Romans 6:12, 16)*

4. Why is slavery such an accurate descriptor of our state when we are walking in sin? How have you experienced this enslavement in your own life?

5. Where does Jesus tell us that true freedom from this slavery is found? What is Jesus calling us to when he says, “abide in my word” (v.31)? What does it mean to walk daily in the freedom Jesus offers- to “remain in the house forever” (v.35)?

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)*

*But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness...*

*For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:17-18, 20-23)*

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)*

*For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13)*

6. How is God asking you to respond to His word – First, in confession and prayer? And then in action empowered by God’s Spirit?

7. How does this passage prompt us to pray – individually and corporately?

Spend time praying together as a group as the Holy Spirit has prompted you through the truth of this passage.

