

**JESUS IS THE ONE
WHO FREES**

John 8

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

- Jesus attempts to show the Jews the evil of their ways and why they are enslaved to sin.
- Jesus shows them that because they do not believe in Him, they do not know the Father.
- If you believe in Jesus, you believe the Father. If you love the Father, you love Jesus.
- The chapter begins with a woman brought before Jesus for judgment.

JOHN 8:1-11



RECOGNIZE THAT
EVERYONE IS SINFUL

JOHN 8:1-11

EVERYONE SINFUL

- The Pharisees posed a dilemma (vs. 6 - test Him).
 - If Jesus agreed to stone the woman, He would incur the distrust of the sinners He came to save.
 - If He refused to stone her, He would be vulnerable to the accusation that He broke the Law of Moses.
- Deuteronomy 22:23-24 required punishment for both and two witnesses. Suggests this was all a set-up.

EVERYONE SINFUL

- The oldest Pharisees left the scene first?
- Was that because they had more sins over a lifetime? Was it because they realized their sin was greater than this woman's sin? Was it because of what Jesus wrote on the ground?
- Consider what the woman heard: Pharisees accusing, Jesus speaking, and then stones dropping.

EVERYONE SINFUL

- The question by Jesus to the woman and provided an opportunity to teach repentance, regeneration, restitution, and reconciliation.
- It also teaches that forgiveness rests upon God's grace. In the parable of the prodigal son, the father shows unconditional forgiveness and restoration.
- Jesus says something similar to the paralytic (Matthew 9:2) - "your sins are forgiven."

QUESTIONS

- Does this story belong in our Bibles?
- The oldest Greek manuscripts we have do not include John 7:53-8:11. Later manuscripts have it.
- John (21:25) later in the gospel says there were many other things that Jesus did that aren't recorded.
- Similar stories are written by some of the early church fathers (Papias, Eusebius).

QUESTIONS

- The story also fits with the teaching and character of Jesus. In other passages, Jesus challenges the Pharisees and forgives a repentant sinner.
- What did Jesus write on the ground?
- Some believe He was writing the names of the Pharisees and their sins.
- This is based upon a verse in Jeremiah 17:13.

QUESTIONS

- Jeremiah 17:13 - “Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters.”
- Remember that in the preceding chapter, Jesus spoke of Himself as living water.
- Another possibility was that He was writing the Ten Commandments. After all, God carved the Ten Commandments with His finger.

QUESTIONS

- Where did this take place?
- Probably the southern steps of the Temple.



FOLLOW JESUS OUT OF
SIN AND INTO A
RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

JOHN 8:12-30

FOLLOW JESUS

- The Feast of Tabernacles was also known as the Feast of Lights because of the many ceremonies that involved various kinds of lighting.
- In previous passages, John has talked about light and life. Here is the culmination of that discussion in another one of the “I Am” passages in the gospel.
- Jesus proclaims that “I am the light of the world.” Follow Him as you followed the pillar of fire.

FOLLOW JESUS

- Some has suggested that Jesus may have drawn His illustration from the giant Menorah which cast its light over the room.
- Everyone knew that the Menorah would be extinguished after the feast. Jesus is teaching that His light would remain forever.
- Jesus was challenged by the Pharisees, and His response is that the Father bears witness of Him.

FOLLOW JESUS

- (vs. 19) Where is your father? They are asking about His earthly father and do not even understand Jesus is talking about the Heavenly Father.
- (vs. 20) says that “his hour has not yet come.” This phrase appears seven times in John’s Gospel.
- (vs. 24) Jesus says “unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” Three times Jesus warns crowds that “you will die in your sins.”

FOLLOW JESUS

- To die in your sins means to die with the burden of one's own sin and its penalty enforced by a righteous God (Romans 6:23).
- Physical death separates the spirit from the body; spiritual death separates the spirit from God.
- Essentially Jesus is talking about hell in this passage, but they are thinking He is about to commit suicide (verse 22 - "will he kill himself?").

FOLLOW JESUS

- Consider the challenges from the Pharisees:
 - verse 13 - Your testimony is not valid
 - verse 19 - Where is your father?
 - verse 22 - Will he kill himself?
 - verse 25 - Who are you?

FOLLOW JESUS

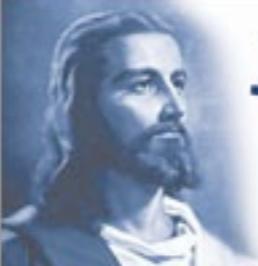
- The answer from Jesus to the last question is that the Son of Man will be lifted up. This was a reference to the crucifixion.
- Later the concept of glory and being lifted up point to His glorification following the resurrection.
- No middle ground: the Pharisees and others want to kill him while “many believed in Him” (verse 30).

JESUS IS WITH THE 99%

You cannot serve God and wealth (Matthew 6:24)

WHAT WOULD
JESUS LEGALIZE?

WWJD?
What Would Jesus Drive?

 Jesus affirmed
a gay couple.
Matthew 8:5-13
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 Whose
Taxes
Would
Jesus
Cut?
Rich or Poor?

Who Would
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LIVE IN FREEDOM FROM
SIN, THROUGH THE
POWER OF THE SPIRIT

JOHN 8:31-59

TRUTH AND FREEDOM

- Truth and freedom (verses 31-41)
- Jesus challenges those who believed Him in the previous passage.
- Jesus shares that those who obey His words are truly free: “you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (verse 32).
- Jesus also differentiates between the physical and spiritual descendants of Abraham.

TRUTH AND FREEDOM

- Some of the Jews who believed in Him claimed that their relationship with Abraham kept them from bondage (“never enslaved to anyone” - verse 33).
- Was it true they were never enslaved? What about Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Rome?
- Jesus teaches that “everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin” (verse 34). Having a relationship to Abraham does not provide freedom.

TRUTH AND FREEDOM

- Jesus not only provides freedom from error and sin, He provides freedom from unholy zeal.
- They turn it back on Jesus: we were not born of sexual immorality (verse 41). Remember their earlier question, Where is your father? (verse 19).
- The rumors surrounding the virgin birth may have been know to many of these people. This stigma apparently followed Jesus through His ministry.

TRUTH AND LIES

- Truth and lies (verses 42-47)
- Jesus is speaking to the religious leaders in these verses. They do not understand that true disciples love Jesus and resist Satan.
- This debate may have gone on for hours, and John provides just a summary of what took place.
- (vs. 44) He accuses them of being of the devil.

TRUTH AND LIES

- Truth is the opposite of lying and the opposite of heresy.
- These religious leaders do not understand and resist the idea that they are serving Satan. Unfortunately, they are being deceived by Satan into believing they are children of God when they are not.
- A true disciple believes the truth of Jesus and obeys the commands of God.

TRUTH AND REALITY

- Truth and reality (verse 48-59)
- The debate then turns ugly. They have already challenges his proof and family connections.
- Now they say He is a Samaritan and has a demon.
- (vs. 51) Jesus begins with “truly, truly” to make his point. These two words (amen, amen) appear 127 times in the New Testament.

TRUTH AND REALITY

- (vs. 52) Now we know you have a demon - “he will never taste death.”
- Jesus is talking about life after death. Jewish literature for centuries had been asking about whether there was life after death.
- (vs. 53) Who do you think you are?
- Again Jesus tells them His message is the Father’s.

TRUTH AND REALITY

- Jesus then says that Abraham “rejoiced that he would see my day” - sacrifice of Isaac could have been an object lesson of incarnation, death, and resurrection.
- The skeptics reject His claim by challenging His age.
- (vs. 58) “before Abraham was, I am.” (Exodus 3:14)
- Response: “They picked up stones to throw at Him.”

APPLICATION

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

“Imagine if you will that among the Jews there suddenly turns up a man who goes about talking as if He was God. . . God, in their language, meant the Being outside the world Who had made it and was infinitely different from anything else. And when you have grasped that, you will see that what this man said was, quite simply, the most shocking thing that has ever been uttered by human lips.”

JESUS CLAIMED THE NAME OF GOD

- John 8:58-59 - “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.
- Exodus 3:14 - Say this to the people of Israel, “I AM has sent me to you.”
- In the Hebrew Old Testament, the name “I AM WHO I AM” is abbreviated, by the consonants YHWH.

JESUS CLAIMED THE NAME OF GOD

- John 10:30-33 - “I and the Father are one.” Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”
- “We are not stoning you for any of these,” replied the Jews, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”
- Once again, they wanted to stone Jesus.

JESUS CLAIMED THE FUNCTIONS OF GOD

- Claimed to be the ultimate judge of humankind:
- John 5:25 - "I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man."

JESUS CLAIMED THE FUNCTIONS OF GOD

- Accepted worship from others:
- John 9:35-38 - Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"
- Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

JESUS CLAIMED THE FUNCTIONS OF GOD

- Taught that prayer should be in His name:
- John 14:13 - “And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

JESUS CLAIMED THE FUNCTIONS OF GOD

- Jesus forgave sins committed against God:
- Matthew 2:5-7 - When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
- vs. 10 - "the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins"

JESUS CLAIMED THE FUNCTIONS OF GOD

- Jesus claimed authority over all of creation:
- Matthew 28:18-20 - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

C.S. LEWIS

MERE CHRISTIANITY

I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic -- on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

C.S. LEWIS

MERE CHRISTIANITY

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about Him being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

