

THE TRUTH WILL MAKE YOU FREE

INTRODUCITON

In John 7, Jesus taught the Jews at the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem. As He did so, John records several different reactions to Him from the crowds (verses 10-30), those who believed in Him (verse 31), and the Pharisees (verse 32). In John 8:31-59, the Bible continues describing what happened at this important event by giving us “4 Comments that Jesus and His Audience Make in Regards to the Subject of Freedom.”

1). The Truth Can Make You Free (verses 31-32).

Verses 31-32 says,

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Discussion Question A: Why did Jesus bring up the subject of freedom at the Feast of Booths? Was freedom and slavery a topic that the people in the First Century would have been familiar with? How so?

Discussion Question B: Are people suffering from a form of spiritual bondage today? Explain your answer and explain what Jesus meant when He said “If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (verse 36).

2). We Don’t Need Freedom (verses 33-41).

Verses 33-34 says,

[The people] answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.”

Discussion Question A: Why did the Jews say that “we have never yet been enslaved to anyone” in verse 33 and what did that have to do with being Abraham’s descendants?

Discussion Question B: How did Jesus correct their misunderstanding in verse 34?

3). You are Sons of the Devil (verses 41-48).

Verses 41-44 says,

They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.”

Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.

Discussion Question A: Would it have been offensive to tell a group of Jews that their father was the devil? So what led Jesus to do it?

Discussion Question B: Can someone have the devil as their father today? What leads you to think this way?

4). Silence or No Comment at all (verses 49-59).

Verses 56-59 says,

[Jesus answered,] “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.”

Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

Discussion Question A: Describe the Jew’s reaction to Jesus when it says that “they picked up stones to stone Him” (verse 59).

Discussion Question B: How does their response tie in to Jesus statement that “Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am” (verse 58)? What is this verse referring to and why does Jesus make such a blatant allusion to His deity at this point in the passage?