



2022-5-15 The Truth Will Set You Free

John 8:31- 56

One Couldn't Help But Ask

- In V-31 we read, "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." "
- What questions might this declaration raise?
- Why is Jesus parsing out and addressing only those who believe in Him?
 - The conditional phrase, "if you abide in My word" - what does that mean? How do you live in someone's word? Can you cite an example?
 - Jesus says, "...the truth shall make you free." - In V-33 the Jews claim they have never been in bondage seemingly missing that they are subject to Roman rule as they speak, So, free from what? What is Jesus offering?
- What about today? Do 21st century Christians, followers of Christ, abide in His word? Are we separated and therefore better than those who don't? Are we set free from the same bondage as 1st century believers or have things changed?
 - Being a slave to sin is extremely dangerous based on Jesus' comment in V-35 since they have no permanent place in the family. He also says everyone who sins, is a slave to it. That seems to make us all slaves to sin.
 - If He sets us free, doesn't that mean we are free of sin?
 - If we continue to sin, does that mean we were never really freed?
 - In V-51, the Synagogue leaders sarcastically told Jesus that the prophets were dead so His claim that those who abided in Him & kept His word would never see death was false and that He was demon possessed.
Many 21st century people claim that Jesus can't be real because of all the hateful murders and deadly diseases that occur today. Where is He?, they ask. How would you respond?

- The religious are, as always, in a running battle of words with Jesus. He attempts to let them know that He is the Messiah they have been praying & waiting for. They repeatedly deny his acceptability to them. What does this tell us about them and is it of any consequence to us 2,000 years later?
- Jesus finally tells them that they are children of the Devil. He uses some simple logic found in V42-47.
 - If God were your father, you would love me for I came from God...
 - Why is my language not clear to you? You can't hear me because you're more interested in carrying out your father's will.
 - Your father is the devil, the father of lies.
 - This is the reason they will not accept Him when He tells them the truth. What are your thoughts on the investment some make in self-deception?

The Take Aways

- John Charles Ryle (1816 - 1900) was an English evangelical Anglican bishop. He commented that "The power of self-deception in the unconverted man is infinite." We should not expect the unbelievers we may meet to be easily turned from their current course. Our mission is not to convert them but to keep sharing the gospel and what our relationship with Jesus has meant to our life that they might see and ask if He would welcome them also.
- The Son makes you free: "So the slave of sin cannot by himself change his status. He cannot convert himself, nor can he be converted by any fellow-sinner... The liberator from our bondage must come from outside the ranks of enslaved humanity." (R. Tasker) We are most fortunate to have Jesus as that liberator, the Son of the Father, our creator.
- Spurgeon considered several ways that God's word should have a place in the believer.
 - · The word of God ought to have an inward place
 - · The word of God ought to have a place of high honor
 - · The word of God ought to have a place of trust
 - · The word of God ought to have a place of rule
 - · The word of God ought to have a place of love
 - · The word of God ought to have a permanent place

Notes

Parts taken from Blue Letter Bible and the commentary of David Guzik & others

An invitation to join us

This study guide is provided in the hope that others will be moved to consider the sermon, let their mind wander to questions it might raise and thoughts they wish to remember and apply to their personal life. If anyone reading the guide cares to ask a question or share their thoughts regarding the subject, please e-mail the authors at mensbreakfast@therivercolorado.org . If you would like to participate in the building of the study guide, please let us know and we'll make provisions to have you join us via phone and/or Zoom