

Lighthouse Bible Church

August 18th, 2013

John 8: 28 – 36 *Scripture Reading Romans 6: 15 - 23*

‘Slave or Free, which are you’ Pt #2

Stand – Read – Pray

Review:

The Verses I shared with you last week are in this weeks bulletin since I added them to my message after the bulletin was done last week.

We looked last week at Jesus telling the religious leaders, the Pharisees, that they would know exactly who He was and who He claimed to be when they lifted Him up, when they crucified Him.

We saw how they would know that He was the Messiah, the Christ, the God of the Old Testament, God in human form when He was crucified and we saw that they would know this either in life or in death.

We saw last time that when someone dies in their sin they will know exactly who Jesus is but by that time it will be too late. The scripture makes it very clear in **Hebrews 9: 27** that it is appointed unto man once to die then after this, the judgment. But they problem is, like the rich man and Lazarus we saw last time, it will be too late. There are no 2nd chances, no way of changing your eternal judgment.

We saw that some people will know who Christ is in life and we saw the profound effect His death, burial and resurrection had on many people alive at the time of Christ and alive today. We saw the thief on the cross, the Roman soldiers, the disciples, and we see many today, who when they are born again, know exactly who Christ is.

As a result of what Jesus had said and what He had been teaching, Verse 30 said that ‘many believed in Him’. And we saw last time that that belief wasn’t saving faith, it was a mere intellectual knowledge about Jesus. Remember James 2: 19 said you believe in one God you do well, even the demons believe and tremble. So it is more than just mere belief ...*expound*

And as we saw last time Jesus addressed these so called believers in Verse 31 and described them in Verse 34 as slaves of sin, Verses 38 & 41 as having a different father than God the Father, in Verse 42 as not loving Jesus and finally, in Verse 44, identifying their father as ‘the devil’. They weren’t believers, He even says that in Verses 45 – 46.

Jesus concluded last time by telling them ‘the only way you could be My true disciples is by ‘abiding in My word’. By remaining in My word that would evidence itself in an obedient life and by a persevering faith. Then you are My disciples indeed, He says, or in truth *aletheos*.

Then Jesus says the only way you can be My true, in truth, disciple is by knowing the truth that can set you free, and that is where we want to pick it up this morning in Verse 32.

Verse 32: and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

Jesus says that it is only through your knowledge of the truth that you can be set free from your bondage of sin and death. From your bondage to a religion of human achievement, from your bondage to self-reliance on your heritage, from your bondage to your perceived good works. Jesus says you shall KNOW the truth. That word know is *ginosko* in the Greek and it means to perceive, to get knowledge or to understand.

What Jesus is saying is that you need to understand what the truth is because that is the only way to be set free from bondage. Isn't that something that people, even today, are trying to discover? What is truth? Like the people in the time of Christ, people today are looking in the wrong places and they can't find it so then they make up their own truth and spread that as 'the' truth.

The truth is; we evolved from monkeys. The truth is; there are many paths to God. The truth is; there is no hell and EVERYONE is going to heaven. The truth is; you're not responsible for your own actions, it's your environment, your upbringing, your circumstances that are to blame. The truth is; it is ok to do what you want as long as it doesn't hurt someone else. The truth is sex before marriage is ok, so you can get to know that person. The truth is; same sex marriage is ok, after all, who are you to judge someone else's lifestyle. The truth is; the world doesn't know what truth is.

The truth that the world is willing to buy into and believe, is a truth that leads them further and further into bondage and emptiness and hopelessness. And as a result we have a society today of medicated people, of intoxicated people, of selfish people, hateful people, a people going through the wide gate and down the broad path that leads to destruction. **Read 2nd Timothy 3: 1 – 5**. And many of them are religious people who have their own truth about salvation.

We live in a society like that today because our society does not know the truth that can set them free. Someone who does know the truth is set free from the world's entanglements and becomes an in truth or true disciple of Christ.

Remember that word 'indeed' *aletheos*, meant in truth. Well, the word truth, used twice in Verse 32, is the word *alethia*. What Jesus is saying is; that a true disciple of mine is one who knows what truth is and lives by it and it evidence itself that they are set free from sin, death and the lure of the world.

The question then becomes; what is truth, what is the truth that Jesus is referring to here? Well, it is the all encompassing truth revealed in Himself and in the scriptures.

Scripture and Christ tells us that there is only one way of salvation, right. **John 14: 6 and Acts 4: 12** and it is **belief in the truth** **2nd Thessalonians 2: 13** says

Scripture tells us that God is a God of truth in **Psalm 31: 5**

Scripture tells us that Jesus is full of truth in **John 14: 6** and He equates Himself with truth in our passage in Verse 36 compared to Verse 32

Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth in **John 14: 17, 16: 13**

Scripture tells us that the Bible is truth in **2nd Timothy 2: 15, John 17: 17**

When a believer knows the truth that sets them free then their life begins to evidence itself in a life of truth. **John 4: 23 – 24** says ‘we worship in spirit and truth’. **1st Peter 1: 22** says ‘we are to obey the truth’. **2nd Thessalonians 2: 10** says ‘we are to love the truth’. **Ephesians 4: 15** says ‘we are to speak the truth in love’. **2nd John 4:** says ‘we are to walk in the truth’. That is a life of true spiritual freedom that no circumstance can take away. Remember Paul and Silas in prison in **Acts 16: 25** +. **but at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God...**

As a matter of fact this very place, Lighthouse Bible Church, is called in 1st Timothy 3: 15 the church of God and the pillar and ground of the truth.

For unbelievers, it is just the opposite when it comes to knowing the truth. **1st Timothy 6: 5** says ‘they are destitute of the truth’, **2nd Timothy 2: 18** says ‘they have strayed from the truth’, **2nd Timothy 3: 7 - 8** says ‘they are always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth’ and ‘they resist the truth’, **2nd Timothy 4: 4** says ‘they will turn their ears away from the truth’.

And that is exactly what these Jews have done and will continue to do; turn away from the truth. Look at Verse 45 – 46: but because I tell the truth you do not (what) believe Me...and if I tell you the truth, why do you not believe Me?

So look how these unbelieving Jews answered Jesus in Verse 33 to His inference that they are in bondage.

Verse 33: they answered Him ‘we are Abraham’s descendants and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say you will be made free?’

You know what these Jews were saying? They were saying we ARE spiritually free, we are not in bondage to anyone. We know they are talking about spiritual freedom and bondage as opposed to physical bondage because the nation of Israel had been under bondage many times in their history and they were at this time under the yolk of the Romans.

So what they are saying is ‘we are spiritually free because we are descendants of Abraham’. They thought they were headed for heaven because of their lineage, because they were Jewish descendants of Abraham. Paul addressed their false security and freedom in their heritage by telling them in **Romans 2: 28 – 29** for **he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly and circumcision is that of the heart...**

He says your heritage, your lineage through the Abrahamic covenant and through the covenant of circumcision does you no good unless you believe in God and His Son whom He sent. These religious Jews didn’t think they were in bondage to anyone and consequently they are some of the hardest ones to reach.

Just like today. You can’t help someone who doesn’t think they need help.

You can go to someone and say 'I can set you free' and if they say 'I am already free', they are hard to convince otherwise. You can't give someone water unless they are what? Thirsty. You can't give someone food unless they are...hungry. You can't talk to someone about God's grace until they understand the law. You can't talk with someone about God's mercy until they understand God's justice.

That is why I like to take someone through the 10 commandments. Because if they don't understand the law and their violation of it and their deserving of punishment, then they can never understand God's grace and forgiveness through the punishment of God's Son, Jesus.

These religious Jews thought they were already free because of their heritage so Jesus has to give them the analogy they might understand. You can't be set free until you understand that you are a slave. And in their case, and ours today, slaves of sin. Look at Verses 34 - 35.

Verses 34 - 35: Jesus answered them 'most assuredly, I say to you, 'whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

Jesus says 'you may be descendants of Abraham but if you have ever committed sin in your life you are a slave, a slave to that sin. That word slave is the word *doulos* in the Greek and it means a bond slave, the lowest kind of slave that has absolutely no freedom whatsoever, as a matter of fact they were the ones in chains many times. It is to be totally controlled by someone else and unable to free ones self.

Jesus says 'you think your free, you are the lowest of all slaves because you commit sin. That word commit is in the present tense and does not necessarily refer to an individual sinful act, it refers to the nature of the person that causes the sinful act.

In other words whoever commits sin is a slave to sin in the sense of habitual sin. It is not a one time sin that enslaves, it is that we are enslaved by a sin nature that expresses itself in sinful acts, because that is our nature. That is how **Romans 3: 10 – 18** describes every person ever born.

Peter describes what these religious leaders are like and what they are in bondage to in **2nd Peter 2: 18 – 19** he says **for when they speak great swelling words of emptiness ... while they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption for by whom a person is overcome by him also he is brought into bondage or slavery.**

Paul said in **Romans 6: 6, 17 & 20:** that we were slaves to sin and free from righteousness by nature. And by the way, the only way a bondsman was ever released was by death. They were slaves from birth to death and Jesus says you Pharisees and all people are slaves of sin. So how are you freed from sin? Good question: you have to die. Look at **Romans 6: 6** **knowing this, that our old man our sin nature, was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be (what) slaves of sin. Verses 7 – 8** go on to say *Read.* Then **Verses 17 – 18**

The only way a sinner can be freed from their sin is uniting with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection by putting their faith and trust in His saving work on the cross to free them from their sin. **Read Titus 3: 3 – 7**

Then Jesus adds in Verse 35 another slave analogy

Verse 35: and a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

Jesus uses an analogy that they would, again, have understood. A slave had no lasting permanent place or rights in his masters home, only his children did and they received the inheritance.

Jesus says to them ‘even though you are Abrahams descendants, you are slaves and not son’s’ and because of that you are in danger of forfeiting all the privileges afforded you as God’s chosen people because you are not abiding in My word and the word of God.

You think you are in the house as sons, because of your heritage, but you are in the house as slaves to be cast out forever. Listen to what **Matthew 8: 11 – 12** says **I say to you that many will come from east and west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

So how do you stop being a slave and become a real son and real child of God? Remember what **John 1: 12** said but as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name...only a son enjoys true freedom. So Jesus says ‘would you like to be freed from slavery and adopted as sons and receive all the Father would give His only Son’? Then Jesus says in Verse 36

Verse 36: therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

The only way a slave could be released from his slavery was by a written letter from the father or son of the household in which he served. Jesus says ‘I have the power, as God’s Son, to release you from your slavery and not only that but then I can bring you back into My house and make you a joint heir with Me in My Father’s house. That is why **1st John 3: 2** says **beloved, now we are children of God...**

It is only the Son of God and believing Him for who He is that can set you free from your bondage of sin and death and eternal punishment in hell and then you will be free indeed free in truth.

By the way, in Verse 32 Jesus says you shall know the truth and the truth will make you free. Now He says the Son shall make you free. Which is it? Jesus, as **John 14: 6 says is the way, the TRUTH and the life.**

So which are you here this morning? A slave of sin or free, in Christ.

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‘Slave or Free, which are you?’ Part #2

Introduction and Review:

Verse 31:

2nd John 1: 9, Matthew 12: 49 – 50
John 14: 15, 21, 23 – 24, John 15: 10, 14
1st John 2: 4 – 6, 1st John 3: 24, 1st John 5: 3

Verse 32:

2nd Timothy 3: 1 – 5, *John 14: 6, 17, Acts 4: 12*
2nd Thessalonians 2:10, 13, Psalm 31: 5,
John 16: 13, 2nd Timothy 2: 15, John 17: 17
John 4: 23 – 24, 1st Peter 1: 22, 2nd John 4
Acts 16: 25, 1st Timothy 3: 15, 1st Timothy 6: 5
2nd Timothy 2: 18, 3: 7 – 8, 4: 4

Verse 33 – 36:

Romans 2: 28 – 29, 3: 10 – 18, 2nd Peter 2: 18-19
Romans 6: 6–20, Titus 3: 3 – 7, Matthew 8: 11-12
John 1: 12, 1st John 3: 2, John 14: 6

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Verse 32:

2nd Timothy 3: 1 – 5, *John 14: 6, 17, Acts 4: 12*
2nd Thessalonians 2:10, 13, Psalm 31: 5,
John 16: 13, 2nd Timothy 2: 15, John 17: 17
John 4: 23 – 24, 1st Peter 1: 22, 2nd John 4
Acts 16: 25, 1st Timothy 3: 15, 1st Timothy 6: 5
2nd Timothy 2: 18, 3: 7 – 8, 4: 4

Verse 33 – 36:

Romans 2: 28 – 29, 3: 10 – 18, 2nd Peter 2: 18-19
Romans 6: 6–20, Titus 3: 3 – 7, Matthew 8: 11-12
John 1: 12, 1st John 3: 2, John 14: 6