

**“Who is Jesus?”: Freedom
John 8:31-59**

Introduction:

- Coming out of verse 30
- These OT connections / references would have been very fresh on their minds following the Feast of Booths

The Nature of True Freedom (vv.31-38)

- A) Authentic Conversion (vv.31-36)
- a. Inauthentic Conversion is VERY common
 - i. John 20:30-31
 - ii. 1 John
 - iii. John 2:23; 4:48; 6:26,65-67
 - b. Abide in the Truth
 - i. “abide” - **3306. meḏnw meno**; a prim. vb.; *to stay, abide, remain*: —abide(18), abides(27), abiding(6), await(1), continue(3), endures(1), lasting(1), living(1), remain(20), remain(6), remaining(1), remains(7), stand(1), stay(10), stayed(11), staying(3), waiting(1).
 - ii. Perseverance takes time
 - c. Knowledge of the Truth
 - i. “know” - **1097. ginwiskw ginosko**; from a prim. root **gnw**; *to come to know, recognize, perceive*: —ascertaining (1), aware(7), be sure(m)(4), come to know(1), comprehend(1), felt(1), find out(m)(3), found(2), kept a virgin*(m)(1), knew(13), know(105), know how(1), knowing(3), known(24), knows(13), learn(1), learned(1), perceived (1), perceiving(2), put(m)(1), realize(3), recognize(m)(7), recognized(1), recognizing(1), take notice(1), unaware*(2), understand(11), understood(6), virgin*(1), with certainty(1).
 - ii. Knowing enough to count the cost

- d. Freedom by the Truth
 - i. “free” - **1659. e’leuqero/w eleutheroo**; from 1658; *to make free, fig. to exempt* (from liability): —freed(2), make free(2), set free(3).
 - ii. Related to slavery
 - 1. Slavery to Sin (if we do not realize we are sinners, just what are we freed from?)
 - 2. Just one sin reveals nature
 - iii. Promise of Eternal Life (v.36)
 - 1. In the Son
 - 2. Adoption
 - 3. John 1:12-13
- e. Truest freedom (for not from)

B) Realization of Enslavement (vv.37-38)

- a. Sin Nature
 - i. Born of flesh
 - ii. Yields choice
- b. Sin Choice
 - i. Spiritual origin
 - ii. Expresses true nature

C) **APPLICATION:** Is this what your conversion experience looks like?

The Nature of False Freedom (vv.39-47)

- A) Inherent Goodness or Worth (vv.39-43)
- a. Based on Heritage
 - i. Importance of Abraham
 - 1. Genesis 17:7
 - 2. Galatians 3:7-9,16
 - ii. Faith in Ethnicity
 - b. Invariably hypocritical
 - i. Blinded to truth
 - ii. Ego-centric religion

- iii. Illegitimate sons – father by nature and father by imitation (contrast with Christ – virgin birth / physical & spiritual)
 - c. Impotent
 - i. Powerless
 - ii. Total inability (you don't understand because you cannot understand)
- B) Denies True Origins (v.44)
 - a. Satanic Fatherhood
 - i. Result of Man's rebellion
 - ii. All flesh born into this
 - b. Separation of action from motive (do the pleasure of the father)
 - c. Deceptive in all things (whether in action or motive)
- C) Naturally disbelieves (vv.45-47)
 - a. Rejection of Christ's claims
 - b. Deaf to God's Word
 - c. Implies regeneration precedes reception
- D) **APPLICATION:** Do you feel like you defend your own relative goodness or see that the only good in you is Christ?

The Fruit of True Freedom (vv.48-59)

- A) The Glory of God in Treasuring Christ (vv.48-50)
 - a. No middle ground viewpoint
 - b. Honor the Father
 - c. Glorify the Son
 - d. Passion statement: GLORIFYING GOD BY TREASURING CHRIST ABOVE ALL THINGS AND REACHING OTHERS THAT THEY MAY FIND LASTING JOY IN HIM!
- B) Eternal Life (vv.51-59)
 - a. Assured for those who keep the Word – ABIDE
 - i. Otherwise blind

- ii. Bound in His Identity (their question)
 - b. Focused on the Person of Christ
 - i. The Glorified Christ
 - 1. Worship must be Christo-centric
 - 2. Untrue apart from Christ
 - ii. Abraham the Christian
 - 1. The Christ was central to Abraham's faith
 - 2. Evidenced in obedience to God's word (**Heb.11:8-10**, "**8** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. **10** For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.")
 - iii. He is "I AM"
 - 1. Isa.43:10
 - 2. The claim to Messiahship
 - 3. The Claim to Godhead
 - 4. Offense
 - a. That He is the one Abraham looked forward to
 - b. Blasphemy for the Lost
 - c. Augustine: 'As man [Jesus] flees from the stones, but woe to those from whose heart of stone God flees!'

- C) **APPLICATION:** Is treasuring Christ most important in your life? The tests include no less than taking joy in Him by obeying His Word.