



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: Free Indeed

Text: John 8:12-30

Theme: True children of God remain faithful to the true message of Jesus and experience true freedom.

Teaching Notes: The Jews of Jesus' day claimed Abraham and God as their ethnic and spiritual fathers. But Jesus cautioned them that their lives looked more like another father: the devil – and they were enslaved to his sinful patterns of living. Only by accepting that Jesus was the true Light of the world and abiding in his truth could they find true freedom.

Outline:

1. Presumptions.

- The Jews presumed upon their religious/ethnic heritage and believed it was sufficient for a right relationship with God.

2. Warnings.

- a. Apart from Jesus, you're enslaved to sin.
- b. If you don't respond to the message of Jesus, you don't know God.
- c. You look and think like your spiritual father.

3. Invitations.

- a. Remain faithful to the message of Jesus.
- b. Walk in the liberating truth of Jesus.



Questions to explore individually and with your group:

1. How would you describe “cultural Christianity” in America right now? What are some key differences between the shallow, professed “Christianity” of American culture and a robust, biblical Christianity?
2. What are some things “cultural Christians” presume . . . and how is that relevant to this text?
3. What are some ways sin enslaves? Why can’t you just simply stop sinning?
4. What’s something Jesus requires that our culture has heard and knows, but hasn’t really grasped and acted on? Make a connection to *verse 47*.
5. Why do you think Jesus told the Jews the devil was their father? (Also, why wasn’t Jesus nicer? Why was he so deliberately confrontational and offensive? What can you learn from this?)
6. What does it mean to “abide” in the word of Christ? What are some practical ways a person can do that?
7. How does the truth of Jesus set a person free from the slavery of sin? Compare to your answers in question #3. What does Jesus do for you that you cannot do for yourself, and how does that liberate you?
8. Jesus says, “*If you want to be free, abide in my word.*” Our culture says, “*If you want to be free, . . .*” [Finish the sentence.] What are some ways “cultural Christians,” for example, try to gain or exercise freedom?
9. Given *verse 31*, what’s the role of the local church? (Compare *1 Timothy 3:15*.)
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this Scripture?

Prayer Prompts:

1. Praise the Lord for his truth, grace, and power to set you free from the enslaving nature of sin.
2. Confess where you feel stuck in patterns of sin and failure – where you’re desiring, thinking, doing, or saying unhealthy things but are unable to stop.
3. Pray for others, by name, who need the hope of this message, that the truth of Jesus sets them free from sin’s power and punishment.