

"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, *If you abide in My Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*" – John 8:31-32

### I. "Setting Free Truth"

- a. Have you ever heard something that changed the way you thought? Have you ever heard something so inspiring that it changed the way you lived?
- b. The Jews in the crowd believed, but now it required application. (John 6:65-67)
- c. We must all understand that faith in Christ makes a person a "child of God", but *abiding* in the Word and knowing the truth (living it) makes a true disciple of the kingdom.
- d. Christ is speaking about spiritual, not physical or political bondage. The lost sinner is in bondage to lusts and sins (Titus 3:3), to Satan, and to the world (Eph. 2:1–3).
- e. Jesus' truth is "setting free truth." If we believe and act on it, it will change the way we live.
- f. People reject Jesus because they confuse the physical and the spiritual.
- g. *You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free*, involves knowing Jesus as *Truth*, who brings a transforming sense of freedom to human life. Truth works inwardly then outwardly.
- h. Why does Christ set us free? What are we free to do? (Free to love and be loved, Gal. 5:14,22-26)
- i. *Holding on* to Jesus' teaching will bring a knowledge of the truth which will set you free (32).
- j. *Remaining in the truth* is the mark of the true disciple. They remain in the truth regardless of opposition. (Phil 3:12-13; 2 Tim 4:7)
- k. His Words must find a place in us. (v.37) We must learn the truth about ourselves, before we can learn truth about others. We know who we truly are through knowing Christ. (John 4:29, at the Well)

### II. Children of God and Children of Satan (vv.38-47)

- a. Both *naturally* and *spiritually*, two different *fathers* will produce different types of children from their DNA. (ill. *the paternity test*) The Bible speaks of four different kinds of "spiritual children."
  1. We are born by nature into sin as children of wrath (Eph. 2:3).
  2. When we reach the age of accountability (knowing right from wrong) and deliberately sin, we become children of disobedience (Eph. 2:2).
  3. When we put faith in Christ, we become children of God (John 1:12).
  4. The person who rejects Jesus and prefers self-righteousness, they become a child of the devil.
- b. In Matt. 13:24–30, 36–43, the children of the devil are portrayed as counterfeit Christians.
- c. In our text, Jesus presents the characteristics of the children of the devil:
- d. They will not give place to the Word of God (v. 37). They trust in the flesh (v. 39).
- e. They hate Christ and seek to kill Him (v. 40). They do not love Christ or what He represents (v. 42).
- f. They do not understand the Word, blinded by Satan (v. 43). They are liars and love lies (v. 44).
- g. They will not hear the Word of God (v. 47). *His words find no place in them*.
- h. The "children of the devil" are not totally immoral. They are self-righteous, religious people who reject full obedience to Christ. They are the ones described in Matt. 7:21-23.

### III. Applying the Lesson

- a. Who is your father? What is your spiritual DNA? Are you born of Christ and washed in His blood?
- b. If the truth of Christ is in you, it will be *lived* outside of you. This is proof that you are His.
- c. If you are unsure of who your *Father* is? Say to Christ, "Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. I want to be free from sin. I want to know and receive Your truth."

*For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. - Romans 8:14*