

John 2021 #19 (8.29.21) #21071

John 8:31-59

The Word of Freedom

I. Feast of Tabernacles .c30 AD.

A. This hot dispute took place at Feast of Tabernacles, 6 months before the last Passover.

1. This extremely popular feast had a water ceremony and a light ceremony, both of which Jesus used to point to himself as Messiah.

2. The source of living water. 7:37-39;

3. The light of the world. 8:12

B. The tension is high as Jesus challenges the people to trust him instead of their history, their traditions, their religious deeds, their national identity, or their Abrahamic DNA.

C. Jesus has just affirmed his essential identity with the Father. **25-30**

1. Though the people didn't grasp this completely.

D. Many of the Jews were fascinated with Jesus as the possible Messiah. 30

1. But they did not really comprehend or commit to Him like his disciples did. (See 2:23-25

2. They were not really "abiding" in his Word.

II. So, Jesus presses the issue of genuine faith... Jn.8:31-59

A. My Word is the issue, not your expectations. 31-32

1. Abiding in My Word shows that you are my disciples.

a) *It's not what you think I ought to do, but what I actually say.*

b) *People find out about their faith when they discover that God does not agree with them about something.*

2. You will know the Truth...

a) *Implied: you don't know it yet...*

3. The Truth shall set you Free...

a) *Implied: you are enslaved in some way.*

4. These implications infuriated these shallow "believers."

a) *What? God doesn't agree with me???*

B. Because Sin is the issue, not your personal confidence. 33-37

1. They think of themselves as spiritually "free" based on...

a) Their Abrahamic pedigree. Covenant Monotheism and obedience to the Mosaic Law.

2. But they are radically committed to murdering an innocent Man!

a) The 6th commandment. Ex.20:13

3. *Sin is actually driving these religious people even as they speak!*

C. Because faith makes you part of God's family, not biology. 38-47

1. I came directly from the Father's Presence! **38**

a) You, therefore, must have a different father...

2. The Jews react: Abraham is our father and so is God. **39-41**

a) They saw themselves as God's family through the DNA of Abraham.

b) Jesus challenges this because their deeds are not Abraham's deeds.

3. No! Your actions are the family likeness of the Devil: Murder. **42-47**

a) Satan "killed" Eve and Adam by separating them from God's word and grafting them into their own (and his) desires.

b) Murder was the first and archetypical sin. Creatures created in God's image killing each other.

Gen.4:8

c) *People do what they really believe.*

4. You are not part of God's family. **47**

a) You don't really hear me because you are not of God.

b) *Nobody is born into God's family naturally. (Jn.3:1-15)*

D. And I am the head of God's family, not Abraham. 48-51

1. *I am the Son and the head of God's real family!*
 - a) *The Son remains forever in the house. 36*
2. The Jews accuse Jesus of demonically inspired heresy. 48
 - a) Being a Samaritan and having a Demon.
 - b) Samaritans were a heretical cult in the middle of Israel.
3. Jesus says, No. I'm honoring God as Father, and you are not.
 - a) God the Father is ultimate Judge
4. Which means that if you trust Me, you won't see death. 51

E. Because I am actually God's presence among you. 52-59

1. Are you greater than Abraham, who died? 52-53
 - a) *Who do you make yourself out to be???*
2. I'm not glorifying myself, but... 54-59
 - a) God Himself glorifies Me. 54
 - b) And Abraham himself agrees with me. 56
 - (1) He looked forward to this incarnation and saw it by faith, rejoicing.
3. Because... Before Abraham came into being, I AM. 58
 - a) An absolute claim to pre-existence (Jn.1:1-5)
 - b) Strongest statement of Jesus' deity. *Ego emie* Ex.3:14 LXX
4. The Jews scramble to stone Jesus but can't grab him. 59.
 - a) Which means they understood him to be claiming deity in some way. (Lev.24:16)

III. Two Questions to Ponder:

A. What does Jesus mean when he tells us to "abide in my word" Abide = Greek Meno = "remain, stand firm, continue"

1. It is his definition of being a disciple.
 - a) Abide in my word (31).
 - b) My Word finds no *place* in you. (37)
 - c) You cannot bear to hear my Word (43)
 - d) If anyone keeps my Word, he will never see (taste) death (51, 52)
2. Entering His Word = coming to Him and His Grace.
 - a) The message of who He is and what He has done—the gospel.
 - b) Trusting Him by complete faith for our salvation.
3. Continuing in His Word. The *progress of His thinking* in our own lives. 37 (Rom.12:1-2)
 - a) Xoreo = a space, a location, the ability to operate and function, room to move.
 - b) The Spirit uses His word (the entire Bible interpreted through the gospel) as knowledge of reality and life-shaping dynamic.
4. *As Christians, the main thing happening in our lives is learning to feel, think, and desire like Jesus does.*
 - a) *The whole heart in Christ, growing through stress.*

B. What does Jesus mean when he says that “If the Son sets you free, you are really free.”? 34-36

1. Free from slavery to sin and evil. Rom.6:1-4

- a) The ability to do what is morally good and right at all times. Selfless living
- b) Sin = basically living autonomously and selfishly. Eve and Adam.
- c) Liberty to think and live like Jesus.
- d) God’s grace forgives and transforms. The transformation is the evidence of the forgiveness, the regeneration.

2. Free from the burden of guilt and shame. Rom.8:1-2, 29-30

- a) **Guilt** is about what we have done. (Opposite is innocence, justification)
(1) Jesus takes the blame for it and declares us innocent. We are justified in him.
- b) **Shame** is about who we are. (Opposite is honor, glory)
(1) Jesus bears all the shame and gives us his honor. We are glorified with him.
- c) *Therefore, loved by the Father exactly as He loves the Son.*

3. Free from the fear of death and judgment. Heb.2:14-15 (1 Cor.15:54-57)

- a) Death is the result of sin. If a person is truly forgiven, set free from sin’s judgment, they cannot die and will be resurrected. 11:25
- b) *Anybody in God’s family can’t die. Resurrection is inevitable. Rom.8:12-17; Gal.4:1-7*
- c) *He doesn’t say He won’t see death, but that his disciples won’t.*

C. What’s not to like about this message?