

## CHOOSING A SIDE

John 8:31-59

**31** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, **32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **33** They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" **34** Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. **35** The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. **36** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. **37** I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. **38** I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

**39** They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, **40** but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. **41** You are doing the works your father did." They said to him, "We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God." **42** Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. **43** Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. **44** You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **45** But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. **46** Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? **47** Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

**48** The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" **49** Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. **50** Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. **51** Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." **52** The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' **53** Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" **54** Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' **55** But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. **56** Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." **57** So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" **58** Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." **59** So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

**A) Key points in the passage**

1) v. 31 - Who is Jesus talking to? \_\_\_\_\_

2) v. 33 - What is meant by "We have never been enslaved to anyone"?

• What supporting evidence is given to support this claim? \_\_\_\_\_

• How does Jesus refute this claim (v. 34-36)?

• What is the modern version of this claim?

3) v. 38 - What is Jesus doing here that seems out of character? (see also Matt 10:34-37)

4) v. 56 - What did Jesus mean by saying "Abraham rejoiced to see my day"?

• What 10 things could Abraham see, according to his story In Genesis?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

• What are the 2 responses we can have to Jesus' claim? \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

5) v. 58 - What is Jesus claiming for himself when he says "Before Abraham was, I AM."?

• Why is this particular phrase so offensive to the ears of the listeners?

**B) Jesus' Promises**

1) v. 31-32 – Why are the listeners not happy to hear that Jesus "can set you free"?

2) v. 51 – What's the reaction to his claim that "Anyone who keeps my word will never see death"?

**C) We Are Forced To Choose**

1) Extreme choice #1: Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

2) Extreme choice #2: We belong to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

• What is the unacceptable compromise? \_\_\_\_\_

• Why do we try to compromise, instead of making a choice?

• What are you afraid of losing?

• Are you lukewarm?

• In your life plan, when do you intend to commit to one extreme or the other?