

(31) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in 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.”

(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’?” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because My Word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

(39a) They answered Him, “Abraham is our father.”

(39b) Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 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.” 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. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear My Word. 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 does not stand in 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. 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? Whoever is of God hears the Words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

Think on these things:

- 1) Can you describe the difference between a believer, a disciple, and an apostle? What kind of Jesus follower best describes you? How does Jesus describe a “true disciple” (v.31)?

Believer - _____

Disciple - _____

Apostle - _____

Which one am I? _____

True disciple? _____

- 2) In v.32 Jesus says that His disciples “will know the truth, and this truth will set them free.” From vs. 33-34, it is clear that the Jews did not understand Jesus’ meaning that day. How did the Jews understand Jesus’ statement (v.33), and what did Jesus tell them it meant (v.34)? Consider these verses on the key subject: Romans 6:15-18; 7:13-8:4; 2 Timothy 2:22-26; and 2 Peter 2:18-22.

Jews’ understanding - _____

Jesus’ meaning - _____

- 3) Do you live in this freedom? What would help you to be more successful? Who guarantees this (v.36)?

Live in freedom now? _____

To be more successful? _____

Who guarantees? _____

- 4) Jesus speaks of two "fathers" influencing human lives on earth. Who are these two (vs. 38, 42-44)? How does Jesus bluntly describe the Jews' father (not God in heaven, v.44)?

Two fathers - _____

Description - _____

- 5) The Jews --- like the Arabs (and all Muslims, by faith) --- cite their lineage to Father Abraham, a great man of faith. Does proving this lineage bring the truth & freedom Jesus talked about? Please explain. Consider Romans 4, especially vs. 3-8, 13, 16-25, and Romans 9:6-8.

- 6) Can anyone understand God's Word? Who hears God's Word? What can you do as Christ's ambassador knowing this reality? Can anyone understand? _____

Luke 8:5-15 - _____

Acts 28:25-27 - _____

1 Corinthians 1:18-29; 2:12-14 - _____

2 Corinthians 4:1-5 - _____

Ephesians 4:17-19 - _____

Hebrews 5:11-6:3 - _____

Who can hear God's Word? _____

What can Christ's ambassadors do (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)? _____

People and situations I want to pray for this week: