

• **THE MAIN POINT:** Live free by being disciples of the truth - always.

• **8:31-36 FREE.** Jesus speaks to the people in the crowd who _____ in Him. He uses the Rabbi/ Disciple image to describe their relationship to Him. If they are truly his disciples, they will keep on _____ his teaching. That is, they will put it into practice in their lives. They will live like Jesus, their Rabbi, does (who happens to be God). What he is telling them is _____. That is, it is a description of _____. And because it is "the" truth, they will experience being set _____ from wrong thinking, bad habits, and foolish choices which made slaves of them: stuck in debt, in unhappy relationships, in addictions, in poor health, with limited options for their future. The people responded. What do you mean we are not free? *"We are the descendants of _____ . We've _____ been _____ to anyone on _____ ."* They may not be slaves to other people but indeed are slaves to _____. Sin will end up making people slaves to death. When you die, you will never be part of the FOREVER, permanent _____ of Jesus and His Father. *"So if the Son (the Son of God who created this world and sustains it by His word of power and who is actually standing before you right now) sets you _____, you will indeed be free."* John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:1-3

• **DISCIPLE:** The word in the original language is MATHETES, meaning "one who learns." This person is one who chooses to be taught by a teacher. Among the Jews the follower of a rabbi (a Bible teacher) like Jesus meant that they not only learned what their rabbi taught but obeyed the teaching - lived it out. The true rabbi himself lived out what he had learned about life and now taught. Jesus told his disciples, *"The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are official interpreters of the Scriptures. So practice and obey whatever they say to you, but don't follow their example, for they don't practice what they teach. They are "full of greed and self-indulgence."* (Matthew 23:3,25) Jesus said to them, *"How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest part of your income, but you ignore the important things of the law - JUSTICE, MERCY and FAITH. You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things."* Matthew 23:23-24 The real purpose of being a disciple is not money, power or the praise of men but learning how to live well, which includes dying to self in order to be a blessing to the world.

• **FREE:** The word in the original language is ELEUTHEROO, which means to be set at liberty, to deliver, to declare innocent. Therefore, able to live **not pushed around** -- by inner compulsions and fears -- by other people--by debt. **Not be immobilized, locked up, helpless to live the kind of life the spiritual person wants to live.** • "Free" in the New Testament refers nearly entirely to being set free from the **power of sin** --- which is the freedom robber. *"Those who enter into Christ's being here for us no longer have to live under a continuous low-lying cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently*

cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death." Romans 8:2 Message Bible

• **SIN:** The Greek word here is HAMARTIA. It means "missing the mark." Like an arrow missing the bulls eye. The average person does not want to do things that will mess up their lives -make them slaves to debt, to sex, alcohol and drugs, to anger, greed, pride and such. The problem is that they choose to live lies. They think they can get by with it even though others don't. They find out that they don't want to pay the price to do what is right and good because their life revolves around themselves and they lack the will to cause themselves too much pain and make too great an effort.

• **8:37-44 FATHER:** Jesus tells them that they are not really the descendants of _____

but, in fact, descendants of the _____. (8:44) If they were the descendants of Abraham, they would not be trying to _____ Him. They want to kill him because what He is saying does not find a place in their _____ (the control room of their lives). He is telling them what *He _____ when He was with the _____ and, likewise, they are following the advice of their father (the Devil).* If they were truly the children of Abraham, they would follow his good _____. Jesus tells them in so many words that they are illegitimate children. They pick up on it and say, *"We were not born out of _____ . Our true Father is _____ Himself."* Jesus presses in. No, you are not! You would _____ me if God were your father because I am the Son He sent. You are unable to understand what I am saying because you believe the self-serving and self-exalting lies of your real spiritual father. *"You are the children of your father, the _____, and you _____ to do the _____ things he does. He was a _____ from the _____ and has always _____ the truth. There is _____ truth in him. When he lies, he is consistent with his _____, for he is a _____ and the _____ of lies."*

• **THE DEVIL:** This personage was created by the Son of God as the greatest of the angels. Colossians 1:18 He led the worship of God in the heavenly places (Ezekiel 28:11-19) but became dissatisfied with his place although it was exalted. He lied to himself that he was a good as God His creator. So he was cast down and out of the heavenly places with one third of the angels. Isaiah 14:12-15 Revelation 12:3-4, 7-9 Since then, full of pride, hate, bitterness, and lies, he has turned into a murderer and destroyer of everything. John 10:10 Above all, he is a hater of Christ. He's always telling people they can be god-- which will separate them from the Father if they buy into that lie. Genesis 3:3 The fate of the Devil is to be *"thrown into the lake of fire...where they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."* Revelation 20:10 The fate of those who buy his lies is the same. *"They will be judged according to their deeds.... and thrown into the lake of fire."* Revelation 20:13-14

• **8:45-51 DEMON:** A most effective tactic of a liar is to accuse the other person of the very thing they are most guilty of themselves. We see it in the political world all the time. It is the pot calling the kettle black. Jesus says again the fact that they are not believing the _____ He is telling them proves that they are not Father God's children. God's real children would listen to the _____ of God no matter who spoke them, The answer of the Devil's children is to call Jesus a Samaritan _____ and declare that He is _____ by a _____. Jesus refuses to back down before their name calling. He says again that He is the one who really _____ the Father and that He has no desire to _____ and exalt Himself. In fact, He laid aside his glory --was born into sinful mankind---into the humblest environment-- and has no money, no position, and no fame. Philippians 2:4-7 However, God _____ to glorify Jesus. He is the _____ of who gets the glory. But the bottom line is... "*Anyone who obeys (hears and responds to) my teaching, will never _____.*"

• **8:52-59 I AM (YAHWEH):** The people are determined to demonize the Lord. "Now we _____ you are _____ by a demon."... because you claim to have life and death power over us. Abraham and the _____ never claimed that. Do you claim to be _____ than them? Jesus responds that it is the Father who says "*these _____ things about Him*" - that He is greater than the spiritual giants of Israel, Abraham and the prophets. He says, "I know Him and _____ Him." And then the shocker! "*Your ancestor Abraham _____ as he looked _____ to my _____.* He saw it and was _____." The people say that He is not even _____ years old. How could He say He had seen Abraham. The Lord answers that He _____ even before Abraham was born. He clearly says He is God. So the people do what the law says to do with people who claim to be God. They pick up _____ to kill Him. But to no avail, Jesus _____ from them and left the temple.

What Does This Scripture Say To You? _____