



10/29/25

I remember going through this passage as a kid and being blown away by how direct and clear Jesus is. He is no pushover! The people in this passage said on the surface that they believed in Jesus. He didn't just gloss over their words. He exposed their hearts. That means He knows our hearts and understands our hearts... and He's not afraid to speak the truth even if it makes us mad. He loves us too much to leave us stuck in our sin. I don't know about you, but I find so much security in that! I love that He's so strong and immovable.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

John 8:31-47

What is the true sign of faith? Obedience. In fact, James 2:19 says, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!" It isn't enough just to SAY I believe. True faith leads to worshipful obedience. I will see this very clearly in today's passage as Jesus points to the demon or all demons who knew Jesus well but rebelled against Him and refused to obey or worship Him. Faith without obedience means nothing. Obedience without faith means nothing.

This passage starts with, "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him..." Jesus had just spoken to the Pharisees with great authority and no fear... and vs. 30 says, "As He was saying these things, many believed in Him." But was their belief a saving faith? A faith they would die for? Jesus exposed their true hearts.

He said, "If you ABIDE in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." If you stay in God's word, not just being a hearer of His word, but a doer also... letting the words motivate your actions... that sounds a lot like obedience... that's when you are truly a follower and learner of Jesus. Jesus is the truth that sets you free.

Well... these Jewish people did not like this statement about freedom. They answered with a lie... or at least a very bad memory. They said, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Ummm... Yes, you are

offspring of Abraham... But do you remember the whole book of Judges where you were constantly being taken captive by other countries? Or the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah and Ezekiel where they wrote of judgment for your rebellion and you were made captive to Assyria and then Babylon? Ummm... how about Daniel? Remember how he was a captive in Babylon? And by the way, right now you're under the tyranny of the Roman Empire. That's why you want the Messiah to come and take over so badly! If I were Jesus, I would have pointed all of this out... but He didn't. Maybe arguing with people even with the truth doesn't move a heart. Hmmm...

Jesus didn't talk about the physical slavery they had experienced throughout centuries and millennia. He spoke of a deeper slavery that affects every human ever to be born... whether physically slave or free. It is the slavery of sin. He said, "Everyone who PRACTICES sin is a slave of sin." Everyone who abides in sin rather than in the Word, regardless of what they say, IS a slave to sin. And no slave stays in his master's house forever. The only way to be free to stay is to be set free by the Son. "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Jesus is my only hope of salvation. Praise His name... He's the only hope I need.

Now Jesus addresses their defense that they're offspring of Abraham. I can feel the tension rising. "Yes, you ARE offspring of Abraham. YET you seek to kill Me because My word finds no place in you." If I were being defensive, I would have interrupted Jesus right then and said, "Jesus, we just said we believed You. What are You talking about?" But they didn't interrupt, and Jesus said something that REALLY got them mad once they understood what He was implying! He said, "I speak of what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

They said, "Abraham is our father!" Jesus answered them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did." What are the works Abraham did? "Abraham BELIEVED God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Being in the same bloodline as Abraham was not enough. Paul said in Galatians 3:6-7, "Abraham 'believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness'. Know then that it is those of FAITH who are the sons of Abraham." Abraham believed God. He would never have tried to kill God. In fact, in Genesis 18, the Lord showed up in human form and told him that he would have a son within the year. It is believed that this appearance of the Lord was Jesus Himself. And Abraham believed Him.

In Genesis 18, Jesus spoke the truth from the Father, and here in John 8, Jesus was speaking the truth from the Father. These people who had claimed belief are now proving that it wasn't a faith that saves. Jesus knew they would be trying to kill Him in a matter of minutes. He was exposing their hearts.

Now they're getting really mad! "Did Jesus just accuse us of being from sexual immorality? We have ONE Father - even God!" Okay... which is it? Is your one father Abraham or God? Make up your minds. When people just want to win an argument, they will say whatever it takes... but the truth is not defined by opinion or debate. The truth is the truth and Jesus is the truth.

Now Jesus speaks directly and clearly...

"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." To truly believe in Jesus is to truly love Him. The Father and Jesus are in absolute and perfect unity. "No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also" (1 John 2:23).

"Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear My word." You know who else can't bear to hear the 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." WHOA!

So... Jesus is saying that Abraham is not their father. He's also saying the Father is not their father. He IS saying the DEVIL is their father! Yikes! Why does Jesus say this? Because they choose to believe and dwell with the lie rather than the truth of what Jesus spoke. They chose to believe that they were not now and not ever slaves of sin. They chose to believe that their bloodline was enough to be called the chosen people of God, rather than recognizing that true righteousness comes through faith, not DNA. They chose to believe they could be called children of God without abiding in His word. They chose the lie... like their father, the devil.

He is a liar and the father of lies. Nothing he says comes from a pure heart. The devil cannot bear to hear God's word and he tries to do anything he can to stop it. The only truth he speaks is the kind he can twist. It is his character to lie. Anyone who does not believe Jesus, who IS the truth, IS a child of the devil.

Wow... those are hard words... AND they're TRUE words. Who will fight against those words? Not those who genuinely put their faith in Jesus. Every single thing Jesus said throughout all history is true. Psalm 18:30 says, "This God—His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him." And Proverbs 30:5-6 says, "Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you and you be found a liar (like the devil)."

Jesus added, "Which one of you convicts Me of sin?" Jesus never sinned, not even once! Even when He was finally arrested, they could bring no true accusation against Him. They had to use false witnesses. It was prophesied in Isaiah 53, proven true through His life on earth, and restated in 1 Peter 2:22-24, "He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness."

To truly believe in Jesus is to worship and obey Him... to believe His words and abide in His words... "Whoever is of God hears the words of God." O Lord, I praise You that the last sentence of this passage is NOT true for me... "The reason why you do not hear the words of God is that you are not of God." Let my faith be shown by hearing Your words, believing Your

words, and abiding in Your words. Anyone can hear the words. True faith comes in receiving the words and showing it through obedience to the word.