

**Fully Free in Jesus**  
**The Gospel of John: That You May Believe | John 8:31-36**  
Southern Hills Baptist Church  
February 5, 2017

**Introduction:** Freedom. A resource so precious that people will literally lay down their lives that their families may have it. Yet, so few people really understand and experience it's true depths. There is no nation or power in this world that can offer true freedom. Jesus announces that He alone can do what no one else can, liberate lost souls from the powerful clutches of sin.

**The Promise: Jesus Offers Freedom (vs. 31-32)**

The big promise of this passage is that Jesus is the Liberator of Souls. He offers a freedom that plumbs depths we had never known before.

- **Is This Good News?** Yes and no. Yes, in that it gives us what we desperately need. No, in that it reveals an ugly aspect of reality, we are enslaved. This comes as a shock to many and is hard to swallow.
- **Already Free** - The Jewish crowd on hand (who confessed belief in Jesus) pushed back on this teaching from Jesus. They put their faith in their ethnic heritage. They believed that as Abraham's decedents they already lived in God's favor and didn't need spiritual liberation.

**The Slave Master: Sin (vs. 34-35)**

Jesus has implicitly told the crowd they are enslaved, but they have failed to see how, so Jesus drills deeper.

- **Feel Enslaved?** The crowd clearly wasn't tracking with Jesus. They didn't feel enslaved to sin as Jesus taught. Many in our culture would probably have the same response and even argue that our faith and commitment is the real slave master.
- **Soul Designer** - Jesus, the Designer of our souls, has a different take on the situation. He knows us better than we know us. He speaks as one who knows motivations, desires, and hearts (Jn 2:23-25).
- **Illusion** - Sin gives us the illusion of freedom, but we were made for more.
  - **For the Maker** - We were made by, through, and for the Maker (Rom 11:36). Sin tells us to follow our hearts and that we will find greater happiness elsewhere. Our hearts, when under the captivity of sin, lie and deceive (Jer 17:9).
  - **Sin's Power** - Sin's power rests in its ability to work in secret as we follow our deceived hearts (2 Pet 2:19).

**Fully Free: Free Indeed in Jesus (vs. 36)**

Don't buy the lies the world sells on where you can find real happiness, they are shortsighted and weak. You were made for something more, for someone more, you were made for the Maker and Jesus came to give you freedom that you may know Him and live in His design.

- **Free Indeed** - Jesus steps up the promise of freedom in verse 36, when He says that those whom He liberates will be "free indeed."
- **Full and Emphatic** - This phrase is emphatic. Jesus is saying that the freedom He offers is a true, full freedom. It isn't a half-baked, most of the way, soul-freedom. Jesus liberates our souls fully from the clutches of sin. What does this full freedom look like?
  - **New Desires** - In liberating us Jesus gives us new desires that align with our created purpose (Ezk 25:26-27). The Christian life isn't the painful toil of adhering to commands you have no desire to follow, that wouldn't be true freedom. He changes your heart.
  - **New Ability** - Before Jesus does His work of liberation our spiritual hearts are dead, hearts of stone, pumping no blood and sustaining no life. He gives us a heart of flesh, a living heart that is empowered by His Spirit (Ezk 36:26-27).
  - **Forever Free** - Jesus frees us from the consequences of our sin (Rom 6:23), to an eternal freedom untouched by death, sorrow, pain, and disappointment.

**Application: How Do We Respond to Jesus' Offer of Freedom?**

- **How Do We Enter This Freedom?** *Know the truth and abide in Jesus' Word* (vs. 31-32). Jesus' Word is our source of truth and we are told to abide in it, meaning we are to live in it and under it. It is to be our guide and authority in all matters.
- **How Do We Respond to Jesus' Offer?** *Believe!* Today is the day of salvation. Don't live in slavery any longer. All Jesus asks of you is that you believe, He will do the rest. He will live the perfect life you couldn't. He will take on the punishment that was yours, He will rise again overcoming sin and death. You just need to believe in Him as Lord.
- **What Does Jesus' Freedom Empower Us To?** *Take heart and fight sin, sin no longer has dominion over the Believer.* While many in our world don't feel the enslaving nature of sin as they live under its deceit many do feel enslaved and defeated. Know this, in Christ sin's chains have been broken. Rely on His grace, His Word, His Spirit, and His people and you can overcome any sin holding on (Rom 6:5-11).
- **Rejoice!** The chains of sin that held us back from living out the purpose God created us for have been broken. You are free to live as God designed you, for God's glory and your joy!