

The Gospel of John

8:33-36

Welcome back to this week's study in the book of John.
As with this study and all bible studies, remember to pray before you start.

✠ **John 8:33** *They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free'?"*

Last week we noticed that Jesus was speaking to those who believed, but as we read on, the other Jews are now trying to interfere with Jesus' teaching.

Even their question to Jesus is untrue, because we know that reading through the Old Testament that the Jews were in bondage to the Egyptians and were held captive by other countries.

- ✠ **Ex 6:5** *And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.*
- ✠ **Ezra 9:9** *For we were slaves. Yet our God did not forsake us in our bondage; but He extended mercy to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to revive us, to repair the house of our God, to rebuild its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.*
- ✠ **Isaiah 14:3** *It shall come to pass in the day the LORD gives you rest from your sorrow, and from your fear and the hard bondage in which you were made to serve.*

But even more so the children of Israel were in bondage to sin.

- ✠ **Heb 2:14-15 (NLT)** *Because God's children are human beings--made of flesh and blood--Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he deliver those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.*

But there are so many who are caught up in sin even today, not just the Jews but also the entire world. It's all because the world loves sins, and thinks that those who oppose sin are the wicked ones.

- ✠ **Psalms 36:1 (NLT)** *Sin whispers to the wicked, deep within their hearts. They have no fear of God to restrain them.*
- ✠ **John 3:20** *For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*

They all claim that there is a god, but they don't know the true God of the bible. The God that created heaven and earth. The God who created them. Therefore, they want to sin and see no problem with their sins.

So the Jews, and even the world asks, "***How can you say, 'You will be made free'?***"

Jesus tried to explain to the Jews over and over how He was the Messiah and that He came to save the world from sin. But just as the Jews couldn't grasp on to this, neither can the world.

✠ **John 8:34-36** *Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."*

If you think about it, a slave is not a slave in their own home; rather they are slaves in someone else's home. God created all of us and we are His, but we have all been caught up in slavery and that slavery is to sin.

When you were born, your parents didn't have plans for you to fall into sin like you did. Sure they knew we all sin, but would you be embarrassed if your parents really knew the real you, and some of the things you have done?

We all would, but your parents never planned for you to live the life you may have. Maybe they wanted you to be a doctor or lawyer or a policeman or just do great things on this earth. But instead you turned out the way you did, not doing anything great but instead contributing to the sins of this world.

When God created man, man was not created to sin, but because of the fall of Adam we are all now slaves to sin.

"But I don't want to be a slave to sin."

None of us really do, but you must also remember that a slave has no choice. Slaves don't decide what work they will do or who they will serve.

Think of the children of Israel, they didn't want to be slaves to the Egyptians, but they Egyptians overpowered them and forced them into slavery.

They had no choice who they would serve or the jobs that they would be doing.

In order for a slave to be set free, a price would have to be paid. Usually someone else would buy a slave from the other person and the new person would make him or her their slave or they could set them free.

With all of this in mind, we were born as God's children, but then the wicked one comes and snatches us away and makes us slaves to sin. We don't want to be, but then we know no other lifestyle then to be a slave. We have never experienced what real freedom is.

Sure here in the USA we say that we are free, but we really are in bondage to sin and not free at all.

God knew all of this, and that is why God sent His Son, Jesus, because He knew a price would have to be paid to set us free from our bondage of sin. Paul explains this to the Romans.

† **Romans 6:16-23 (NLT)** *Don't you realize that whatever you choose to obey becomes your master? You can choose sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God and receive his approval. Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you have obeyed with all your heart the new teaching God has given you. Now you are free from sin, your old master, and you have become slaves to your new master, righteousness.*

I speak this way, using the illustration of slaves and masters, because it is easy to understand. Before, you let yourselves be slaves of impurity and lawlessness. Now you must choose to be slaves of righteousness so that you will become holy.

In those days, when you were slaves of sin, you weren't concerned with doing what was right. And what was the result? It was not good, since now you are ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

† **Romans 6:5-6** *For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

As slaves to sin we were not going to make it home to heaven. But since Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross, we can now be assured that we will inherit our homes in heaven.

† **Matt 25:34** *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'*

The bad thing is that satan does not want us to know these things; he wants us to think that we still belong to him as his slave.

Just as the children of Israel were set free from slavery by God, but the Pharaoh couldn't take it and wanted them back to serve him, and if they didn't come back, then he wanted to kill them.

So he chased after them wanting to take them back into slavery. But we all know the story of how the children of Israel walked through the Red Sea as God parted the waters, and when they got to the other side with the Egyptians chasing after them and God destroyed the Egyptians and set the children free from their slavery in Egypt.

But they were still in slavery, not to the Egyptians but to sin, because if you read in the Old Testament, only two men from the original people who left Egypt were allowed into the promised land. Those two men were Joshua and Caleb.

Yes, the children of Israel were set free physically from their slavery, but they refused to be set free from their spiritual bondage of sin.

Why, because they were so used to the old lifestyle they experienced in Egypt that they clung onto it and refused a new life with their Savior who is God.

So how do we put this all into perspective?

We as believers say that we are free in Jesus Christ, which is true. But are you living like you are free, or are you still living as though you are a slave to sin?

Maybe you went forward one Sunday morning and prayed the sinner's prayer and you think you have it made, but you went right back to your old lifestyle.

Let me give us all a little eye opener from God's word.

† **1 Cor 6:9-11** *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

Notice it says, "Were," meaning you used to be like this, or you are no longer doing these things. Are you still in bondage to one or more of the things mentioned here?

Remember the story of the prodigal son and how he took the inheritance and left home. Then he wasted it all on sinful living. He soon ended up feeding pigs and eating their same pig slop just to barely make it. Finally, he came to his senses and thought.

† **Luke 15:17-20** *But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.' ' And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.*

If you read the rest of the story we read of how he was accepted back by his father and a big party was thrown for him. But did you notice one thing? In order to have this renewal with his father and family, he had to leave the pigpen, and I don't read of him ever going back to it.

Being a Christian is the same way, you can think and pray all the prayers you want, but unless you leave the pigpen you are living in, you will never make it home.

We seem to forget to tell people the whole truth of what it takes to become a Christian. We tell them all you have to do is pray this little prayer and you are saved. This is only half true; the other half is what Jesus also said.

† **Matt 4:17** *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

† **Luke 13:3** *I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.*

Even the disciples knew this and preached about it.

† **Acts 2:38** *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

To repent means to turn and go the other way, or to turn from your sins. Now some of you may have struggles and we all do, I'm not talking about struggling with sin because we all do. I am talking about just doing it and not caring at all about it.

Maybe you hate your marriage and want out.

Maybe you are lusting after other men or women.

Maybe you are freely having sex outside of marriage.

Maybe you desire things that others have (coveting) or things of this world.

Maybe you still go out and party and get drunk or do drugs.

Maybe you steal from work or other places.

Maybe you are still living a homosexual lifestyle.

All these things and even others, you don't care and see no harm in them at all.

Well, as we just read in Corinthians,

† **Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.**

Satan wants you to believe that these things are ok and you will get to heaven because you prayed the prayer on Easter morning 20 years ago.

Just because you memorize and can repeat the Ten Commandments doesn't make you a follower of them. Maybe you have read the whole bible from Genesis to Revelations, unless you do what it says, it means nothing.

Think about it, when you die and you are before God, He wont say, "Well as I see it, you cheated on your spouse, stole from work, and lied all the time, but you went to church on Easter Sunday on April 20, 2003 so I guess you can come on in."

So many think they are going to heaven because they went to church or even prayed the prayer but will never make it.

Don't take my word for it, but you can't argue with Jesus' words.

† **Matt 7:21-23** *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will*

say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' "

† **Matt 10:32-33** *Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*

Just because you prayed the prayer means nothing unless you follow through with it.

† **Matt 21:28-31** *"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you."*

The prayer we all prayed is a prayer of faith believing in Jesus, but also wanting to turn from our sins (repent) to follow Jesus.

† **John 12:26** *If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.*

† **John 10:26-28** *But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

† **John 3:20-21** *"For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*

So even though you prayed the prayer, who or what are you following after?

I know this study is a tough one for all of us, because it makes us stop and look at the way we have been living. Maybe you have been having a tough time even trying to read this week's study with things coming up all the time.

These are all attacks from the enemy who doesn't want you to read this, because he knows it is truth from God's word and it will change your life and the way you have been living. If the enemy has been trying so hard to keep us from this, how much more should we follow God's word!

So what are we to do?

If you profess to be a Christian and have been following after the sins mentioned in Corinthians, then you need to repent or turn from these sins. Confess them to the Lord and ask for His forgiveness and ask for the strength and ability to turn from your sins. Also ask the Lord to change your heart so you no longer enjoy these sins, but that you will see what they really are and what they are doing to you and others.

One final passage as a word of encouragement for those who follow what God's word says, and a final warning who don't.

† **Rev 21:1-8** *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

I know we didn't get very far this week, but I pray after this week's study that you will get further in your walk with the Lord as we are all obedient to His word.

May God richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy, and may you experience it like you never have before!