

NOT ME

(HOW TO RISE TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF LIVING)

John 8:31-36



Jesus Reveals

- ◆ The Power of Biblical Truth
- ◆ The Danger of Spiritual Pride
- ◆ The Slavery of Sin's Dominion
- ◆ The Wisdom of Long Term Choices

“And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:32

Bill Kirk

“Not Me”

Text: John 8:31-36

Subject: How To Rise To A Higher Level Of Living

Introduction

1. The Gospel of John was written by John the Apostle in the late 1st Century.
2. The Purpose of John's book is to inspire faith in God's Son that leads to eternal life.
3. John is very different from the first three Gospels:
Matthew was written to Jews, Mark was written to Romans, Luke was written to Gentiles, but John was written to everyone.
4. There are eight great discourses and eight miracles recorded in John's Gospel.

(In John Ch.1...)

Ch. 1 – The Word becomes flesh (so Jesus can identify with who you are and where you live today).

In Ch. 2 – The 1st miracle at the wedding in Cana (so Jesus can rejoice as you enjoy human relationships).

In Ch. 3. – The dialogue with Nicodemus (so you and I could see the need of being born again of the Spirit).

In Ch. 4 – The woman at the well (which reveals to us that Jesus knows your story).
The woman said: *“Come see a man who told me everything that I ever did, is not this the Christ?”* (v. 29)

In Ch. 5 – Jesus heals a man at the Pool of Bethesda (which reveals His power to heal your body).

In Ch. 6 – The feeding of 5,000 with only five loaves and two fish (showing us that little is much when you give it over to God).

In Ch. 7 – The Feast of Tabernacles (when Jesus promises water for the thirsty so that you can be a strong Spirit-filled N.T. Christian).

In Ch. 8 – Jesus confronts religious snipers who catch a sinful woman (Jesus says *“He that is without sin, let him cast the first stone”* – and no one dares to throw a stone).

And then a shift takes place:

- ◆ After Jesus says to the woman in v. 11 *“Neither do I condemn you.”* (And in v. 12)
- ◆ *“If you follow me you'll not walk in darkness.”*

Something Happens!

- ◆ In v. 13 The Pharisees say to Jesus, *“Your testimony isn't valid.”*
- ◆ In v. 19 They say, *“Where is your father?”* And, in v. 25, *“Who are you anyway, Jesus?”*

And Jesus responds with...

- ◆ In v. 28 *“When you lift me up on the cross, you'll know who I am.”*
- ◆ In v. 29 *“I do always those things that please My Father.”*

◆ In v. 31 *“If you continue in My Word, then you are really My disciples”.*

(And in v. 32 – That Great and Powerful Statement)

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Question: Why did Jesus say this? (It’s clear as can be)

1. Jesus is addressing certain Jews who are very intellectual.
2. The hearers think they are okay – but Jesus detects that something is missing.
3. There is a false security, and so Jesus (out of love) speaks clearly to you and me.

Question: What does He say?

Answer: *“Revelations that lead to higher level of joyful and peaceful living”*

I. Jesus Reveals To Us The Power Of Biblical Truth

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall (what?) make you free.” (v. 32)

Question: What is Jesus saying here?

Answer: He is revealing to us the power of God – as opposed to the power of our sinful nature.

Question: What is the “truth” in v. 32? The word “truth” refers to:

- 1) The Word of God and, 2) Jesus (who is the life and power behind the Word).

Question: Why does Jesus say that you must “know” the truth?

Answer: Because the truth exposes lies, and until the truth is known, satan knows that believers and unbelievers will live under the servitude of sin (enslaved by inward and outward sins).

(Hear II Corinthians 4:4)

“The god of this world (satan) has blinded the minds of people, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

Question: What is satan’s goal?

Answer: To keep you from hearing and seeing the light of the gospel (or truth).

Question: Why is this satan’s goal?

Answer: Because the gospel of truth has Supernatural power to extract and liberate us from the desires of a carnal nature that steal our peace, steal our joy and steal our future!

(Ephesians 4:22 Explains It)

“Put off concerning the former way of life (the old man) which is corrupt according to deceitful desires.” (In Other Words)

- ◆ Before conversion, we are dead in sins and cannot submit to the Word of truth.
- ◆ After conversion, we are spiritually alive and the Holy Spirit gives us the desire to please God (above pleasing our self-centered selves).

Question: How many of you know why God gave you life in your mother’s womb?

Answer: To enjoy and reflect the glory of God’s nature in everything you do on earth.

Isaiah 43:6 Tells Us

*“Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone whom I created **for my glory.**” (You were created to reflect God’s nature.)*

Question: How many of you know that justification is **right standing** and sanctification is **right living**?

Question: How many of you want your justified standing (**your position**) to reflect itself in sanctified living (**your practice**).

(Remember)

- ◆ If our **believing** doesn’t change our **behaving** – we have a false security and a faulty experience and God wants to take us to a new level of living.

(Hear The Truth That Leads To Freedom)

- ◆ I Timothy 2:2 *“Lead a quiet and peaceable life in all **godliness.**”*
- ◆ I Timothy 4:7 *“Exercise yourself unto **godliness.**”*
- ◆ Titus 2:12 *“Live soberly, righteously, and **godly** in this present world.”*
- ◆ II Peter 3:11 *“Live as a person of **holiness** and **godliness.**”*
- ◆ II Corinthians 7:1 *“Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God.”*
- ◆ Luke 1:75 *“Serve the Lord in **holiness** and **righteousness** all the days of your life.”*
- ◆ I John 3:3 *“Everyone who has this hope in Him, **purifies** himself.”*
- ◆ Proverbs 14:26 *‘A wise person **departs from evil.**”*
- ◆ Colossians 2:11 *“Put off the sins of the **flesh.**”*
- ◆ Hebrews 12:1 *“Let us lay aside every **weight** and **sin** that so easily beset us.”*
- ◆ I Peter 2:11 *“Abstain from **fleshly lusts** which war against the soul.”*
- ◆ I Thessalonians 4:4 *“That every one of you should know how to possess your vessel in **sanctification** and honor.”*

Question: What is the danger in hearing these truths from Scripture?

II. Jesus Reveals To Us The Danger Of Spiritual Pride

“They answered Jesus, we are of Abraham’s seed, and we have never been in bondage to anyone, how can You say that we need to be free?” (v. 33)

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Who do you think you are Jesus (telling us)...
 - ...that we don’t have it all together.
 - ...that we are in bondage to something.
 - ...that we need to be free from some kind of slavery.

(In Other Words)

◆ **NOT US!** ◆ **NOT WE!** ◆ **NOT I!** ◆ **NOT ME!**

Question: What is Jesus addressing?

Answer: He is confronting the proud spirit of Jewish independence that brought about the Jewish revolt in A.D. 70.

- ◆ Israel had lost its independence to Rome 100 years before this response here.
- ◆ Israel was by no means free of foreign domination!
- ◆ Israel has somehow forgotten Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Antiochus, Augustus, Rome, Egypt, Babylon, Persia, and Syria.

Question: Why was Jesus' audience insulted?

Answer: **Because they didn't think Jesus' message had any application to them!**

(In Other Words)

- ◆ They were insulted at the suggestion – that freedom from the slavery of sin's dominion was something they didn't already possess.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Their false confidence and flattery of themselves was driving them away from Jesus – instead of driving them to Jesus.

(Notice v. 41)

"We are not children of fornication" (which means)

- ◆ "We're not like the Samaritans who descended from an unholy union between Jews and heathen." (In Other Words)
- ◆ "We are not guilty like those unspiritual Samaritans."
- ◆ "We are not bad on the inside like others."
- ◆ "We are not in need of repentance and godly sorrow."

Question: How does Jesus respond to our excuses?

III. Jesus Reveals To Us the Slavery Of Sin's Dominion

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." (v. 34)

Question: How does Jesus respond to our excuses?

Answer: He lays it out so everybody here can understand it in v. 34:

- ◆ **"Whoever is still practicing any sin is still in slavery to sin's dominion!"**
(In Other Words)
- ◆ As long as we don't care about God's glory – we are a slave to our own self-interests!
- ◆ As long as we care about our **appearance** more than our **condition** – we are in bondage and in need of change!
- ◆ As long as we pride ourselves (that we are better than a lot of other people) we will never experience the joy of godly sorry and deep repentance (that brings freedom).

Question: What does Jesus do?

Answer: He brings us into reality so that we can see the truth about ourselves.

- ◆ He loves us enough to show us ourselves to save us from drowning!
- ◆ He loves us enough to tell us the truth about ourselves!
- ◆ He loves us enough to confront us with our inconsistencies.

(Why?)

◆ **Because you cannot change what you do not confront.** (I repeat)

(In Other Words)

◆ **I can't free myself by myself, so I need someone greater to break the law of sin in my nature.**

Question: What are the things that enslave so many of us (and drain us of energy, joy and peace?) **Lets take inventory:**

1. **Envy** – which is the pain you feel when someone else has something you want.
2. **Anger** – because of an unfulfilled expectation when you didn't get your way.
3. **Unforgiveness** – because you were offended and refuse to release it over to God.
4. **Insecurity** – because you care more about peoples rejection than God's approval.
5. **Self-Pity** – that blames other people for a disposition inside of you.
6. **Bitterness** – that produces pain when your enemies are praised.
7. **Coveting** – because you lack contentment in God alone.
8. **Greed** – that keeps you from paying tithes and giving love offerings to missions.
9. **Strife** – that provokes you to cause dissention and division between people.
10. **Rebellion** – that disrespects authority at home, in the church, government, school, etc.
11. **Idols** – things in your life that are more important than God.
12. **Gossip** – that slanders and gives evil reports about other people.
13. **Prayerlessness** – because of misplaced priorities and lack of hunger.
14. **Lying** – that exaggerates and deceives on time cards, income taxes and other areas.
15. **Gluttony** – that feeds on excessive junk food and disregards the temple of the Holy Spirit.
16. **Manipulation** – that intimidates and rejects people you cannot control.
17. **Pride** – that pretends to be holy and righteous because of our outward performance (and refuses to say "I'm sorry", "I was wrong" " Please forgive me").
18. **Alcohol** – that destroys your brain cells and kills 25,000 people a year on the highway.
19. **Tobacco** – that takes oxygen out of your bloodstream, seven years off your life and kills 400,000 people a year (like my mom and dad).
20. **Illegal drugs** – that addict you to a power greater than yourself and destroys your potential
21. **Lust** – because your eyes have been feeding your heart forbidden fruit on TV, low rated movies, magazines, and the internet.
22. **Unbelief** – that doesn't believe that God can free you of anything that is not His will for your life.

◆ Remember: **You cannot change what you do not confront!**

And Remember This:

◆ **If bad decisions bring you pain, then good decisions bring you gain!**

And A Good Decision...

◆ **Is to say enough is enough, humble yourself before God and let God replace old desires with Himself!!!**

IV. Jesus Reveals To Us The Wisdom Of "Long-Term" Choices

"And the servant abideth not in the house for ever, but the Son abideth ever." (v. 35)

Question: What is Jesus saying?

Answer: He is making a comparison that everyone can understand:

“The slave abides not in the house forever” means:

- ◆ A servant who works in the house, works in the house – but is never the heir of the house.
- ◆ So, being an offspring of Abraham is great – but it is only a short term privilege.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ A servant with a job, in a house with a roof over their head is good – but it is only temporary! (And)
- ◆ Being a child of Abraham (a Jew) is good – but it is only temporary.

“But the Son abides forever.” (Which means)

1. You can have a nice job and a nice house – but still be in bondage to sin!
2. You can boast of a religious upbringing – but still be in bondage to sin!

(Or on the other hand)

- ◆ You can connect with God and abide with the Son forever!
- ◆ In other words, we can make a wisdom choice that affects us in two ways:
 1. We can serve God now – and experience freedom from sinful habits by the help of the Holy Spirit while we live on earth today...

(And)

2. When we die – we can experience the joy and reality of eternal life in the presence of a living Jesus. (It’s a win-win!!!)
 - ◆ While on earth – you display and reveal God’s power to free you from sin!!!
 - ◆ When you leave this earth – you inherit a kingdom that never ends!!!

Question: Do you know what’s so amazing about this text today?

Answer: From v.21 to the end of Chapter 8 is one uninterrupted narration.

- ◆ It’s Jesus – and a crowd of Jews.
- ◆ At first everyone is hostile to Jesus
- ◆ By v. 29, a good number change and believe in Jesus.

Question: What caused the change in their hearts?

Answer: It wasn’t through miracles and healings – but through these words of warning and this truth that Jesus gives us.

In Other Words

“You shall know the Truth (or receive it for yourself) and the Truth will set you free (or change what needs to be changed in your life today) – by God’s liberating supernatural power!

Fact: Today is not just another day – it’s a day of change!!

Amen
Bill Kirk