

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 8:31-58)

1. Have you ever experienced freedom in the midst of a situation where you hadn't previously experienced it?

What was the situation and how did your newfound freedom come about?

What emotions did you go through in that entire experience?

Did your freedom result in any change of perspective or behavior in your life?

If so - what changed for you, and was the change enduring?

2. Read 8:31-36

What specifically stands out to you in what he's saying here?

Do you feel that you experience the freedom in your life that Jesus has come to bring you?

Do you understand the reality that all who practice sin are slaves to sin?

How does this statement impact you as you look at the patterns in your life?

Does this shake your confidence in your faith in Christ?

What would it take for you to live in the freedom that Jesus came to bring?

Why do you believe there is a correlation between the truth and freedom?

Have you ever experienced the freedom that comes from embracing the truth revealed by Jesus?

3. Read 8:43

What does this reveal about the true issue with people understanding (or NOT understanding, as the case might be) Jesus?

Have you ever run into this in your own life as you study God's Word?

Does this mean that every time you don't understand something in the Bible this is the reason?

How does this impact your attitude toward evangelism?

Have you run into a complete unwillingness to submit to Jesus' teachings (the revealed Word of God) at some point?

How do you respond when you see this reality at work?

4. This sermon is titled: "Who's Your Father?" - and as we see Jesus' interactions with the people, it is apparent who their father is.

What about us?

Who would we say is our father, and what is the evidence of that in our lives?

As you look at the description of "their father" (the devil), how does that counteract our Father - God Himself?

When you consider your own life, does it align more with the character of God or the character of the enemy?

After reflection - if you find yourself representing the character of the Devil more than Christ, read 1 John 1:9.

What should our response be when confronted with our sin (i.e. a realization that our character isn't right)?

What will the result be if we apply the truths of 1 John 1:9?

How does this impact our ability to walk in the freedom we have in Christ Jesus?

5. I often emphasize the importance of reading and studying God's Word in the life of the Christian.

Why is it so important to make this a priority in our lives?

How do we prevent that from becoming a legalistic tradition that we do because we feel guilty about NOT doing it?

What are some ways that we can truly cultivate a love for His Word in our lives?

(Think about how we cultivate a deeper love in our horizontal relationships too - do some of these apply here?)

If you don't desire to study His Word - PRAY!

Ask for the Lord to deepen your desire and commit yourself to being disciplined in the pursuit of knowing Him!

Be diligent to pursue Him - recognizing that He is constantly pursuing you in His great love and mercy!!

6. Read John 8:58

Here we see one of the most blatant claims of divinity from Jesus' own mouths.

How does this simple statement reveal Jesus' divinity (eternality, unity with God the Father, etc.)?

In light of Jesus' prior claims only speaking the truth - how confident can we be in His claims here?

Knowing that Jesus always and only does the will of the Father - then we know His claim is true...

...if His claim is true, then what is our only reasonable response to Him?

7. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

1. Real freedom is only given by & found in Jesus!

2. God sent Jesus - if we love God we'll listen to Him!

3. If we desire to know God we must read His Word!