

Text Outline**John 8:21-59****I. ²¹ Once more****A. Jesus said to them,**

1. “I am going away,
2. and you will look for me,
3. and you will die in your sin.
4. Where I go, you cannot come.”

B. ²² This made the Jews ask,

1. “Will he kill himself?
2. Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come?’?”

C. ²³ But he continued,

1. “You are from below; I am from above.
2. You are of this world; I am not of this world.
3. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins;
4. if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.”

D. ²⁵ “Who are you?” they asked.**E. “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning,” Jesus replied.**

1. ²⁶ “I have much to say in judgment of you.
2. But he who sent me is trustworthy,
3. and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”

F. ²⁷ They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father.**G. ²⁸ So Jesus said,**

1. “When you have lifted up the Son of Man,
2. then you will know that
 - a) *I am he*
 - b) *and that*
 - (1) I do nothing on my own
 - (2) but speak just what the Father has taught me.
 - c) ²⁹ *The one who sent me*
 - (1) is with me;
 - (2) he has not left me alone,
 - (3) for I always do what pleases him.”

H. ³⁰ Even as he spoke, many believed in him.**II. ³¹ To the Jews who had believed him,****A. Jesus said,**

1. “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
2. ³² Then

- a) *you will know the truth,*
b) *and the truth will set you free.”*
- B.** ³³ They answered him,
1. “We are Abraham’s descendants
2. and have never been slaves of anyone.
3. How can you say that we shall be set free?”
- C.** ³⁴ Jesus replied,
1. “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.
a) ³⁵ *Now a slave has no permanent place in the family,*
b) *but a son belongs to it forever.*
2. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
3. ³⁷ I know that you are Abraham’s descendants.
a) *Yet you are looking for a way to kill me,*
b) *because you have no room for my word.*
4. ³⁸ I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence,
5. and you are doing what you have heard from your father”
- D.** ³⁹ “Abraham is our father,” they answered.
- E.** “If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus,
1. “then you would do what Abraham did.
2. ⁴⁰ As it is,
a) *you are looking for a way to kill me,*
b) *a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God.*
3. Abraham did not do such things.
4. ⁴¹ You are doing the works of your own father.”
- F.** “We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.”
- G.** ⁴² Jesus said to them,
1. “If God were your Father, you would love me,
a) *for I have come here from God.*
b) *I have not come on my own;*
c) *God sent me.*
2. ⁴³ Why is my language not clear to you?

- a) *Because you are unable to hear what I say.*
- b) ⁴⁴ *You belong to*
- (1) your father, the devil,
 - (2) and you want to carry out your father's desires.
 - (a) *He was a murderer from the beginning,*
 - (b) *not holding to the truth,*
 - (c) *for there is no truth in him.*
 - (d) *When he lies, he speaks his native language,*
 - (e) *for he is a liar and the father of lies.*
- c) ⁴⁵ *Yet*
- (1) because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!
 - (2) ⁴⁶ Can any of you prove me guilty of sin?
 - (3) If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?
 - (4) ⁴⁷ Whoever belongs to God hears what God says.
 - (5) The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

III. ⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"

A. ⁴⁹ "I am

1. **not possessed by a demon," said Jesus,**
2. **"but I honor my Father**
3. **and you dishonor me.**
4. ⁵⁰ **I am not seeking glory for myself;**
 - a) *but there is one who seeks it,*
 - b) *and he is the judge.*
5. ⁵¹ **Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death."**

B. ⁵² At this they exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed!

1. **Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death.**
2. ⁵³ **Are you greater than our father Abraham?**
 - a) *He died, and so did the prophets.*
 - b) *Who do you think you are?"*

C. ⁵⁴ Jesus replied,

1. **"If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing.**
2. **My Father,**
 - a) *whom you claim as your God,*
 - b) *is the one who glorifies me.*
3. ⁵⁵ **Though you do not know him, I know him.**

- a) *If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you,*
 - b) *but I do*
 - (1) know him
 - (2) and obey his word.
- 4. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham**
- a) *rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day;*
 - b) *he saw it*
 - c) *and was glad."*
- D. ⁵⁷ "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"**
- E. ⁵⁸ "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered,**
- 1. "before Abraham was born,**
 - 2. I am!"**
- F. ⁵⁹ At this,**
- 1. they picked up stones to stone him,**
 - 2. but Jesus**
 - a) *hid himself,*
 - b) *slipping away from the temple grounds.*

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. COPYRIGHT© 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Conceptual Outline

Theme: Jesus came to tell us the way to life - believe He is the Son of God.

I. Jesus reveals He is God

A. Jesus is going away

B. Jesus reveals who we are

1. from below, of this world
2. we will die in our sins
3. believe in Jesus is the only way out

C. Jesus' mission

1. he is Judge
2. he's sent to tell the world

D. His death will reveal

1. He is God
2. He speaks what the Father taught Him
3. The Father is with Him

II. Jesus reveals our condition & offers to set us free

A. True disciples of Jesus

1. hold on to Jesus' teaching
2. will know that truth
3. the truth will set us free

B. Our need for freedom - We are slaves to sin

C. the Son is the only one who can set us free

D. Jesus' dismantles the Jews' beliefs

1. They are not Abraham's children because they did not do what Abraham did. They are looking to kill Jesus.
2. They are not God's children because they don't love Jesus
3. They belong to the devil because they want to carry out the devil's desires: murder & lies

III. Jesus is God & offers eternal life

A. Jesus' claims

1. Jesus honors God but is dishonored by the Jews
2. the Judge seeks Jesus' glory
3. whoever obeys Jesus' word will never see death

- B. The Jews' protest that Jesus is demon-possessed**
 - 1. reality of death in human history**
 - 2. Jesus is not greater than Abraham**
- C. Jesus' rebuttal**
 - 1. God's testimony about Jesus**
 - a) God glorifies Jesus*
 - b) Jesus knows the Father*
 - c) Jesus obeys the Father's word*
 - 2. Abraham's testimony about Jesus**
 - a) Abraham rejoiced in seeing Jesus' day*
 - b) Before Abraham was born, Jesus is God*

Questions:

Relating

What does freedom mean to you? In what ways are you a free man/woman? In what ways are you not free?

Dictionary:

- The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.
- Absence of subjection to foreign domination or despotic government.

Background

This passage took place towards the end of Jesus' ministry when He began to show His disciples that He'll be a suffering Master. His Kingship is not one that would rule in this world but He would die & by His death, we will have life. Because of this, many started to abandon Him. The Jewish leaders were determined to kill Him. Others are confused about Him. (See John 6:60, 66; 7:1, 20, 41-44.) The audience was a mixed one with His disciples, seekers, unbelievers, and Jewish leaders who were ready to kill Him. In this passage, Jesus will show us who He is, who we are, and offers us freedom and eternal life.

Read the passage

1. Divide the group into 2 groups. Group 1 read the sayings of Jesus. Group 2 read the sayings of the Jews. Leader will narrate.
2. Assign 1 member to read the sayings of Jesus. A few to read the sayings of the Jews who would pretend to be Jewish leaders who wanted to kill Jesus. Others will be divided into 3 groups with the assignment to imagine themselves as:
 - a. Believers of Jesus
 - b. People who wants to kill Jesus
 - c. people who are confused about Jesus

Check in with each of the groups & invite them to share about the thoughts or emotions they experienced during reading.

Vs. 21-30 Jesus reveals He is God

1. Jesus initiates a dialog with the Jews. What are some of the things He's telling them about Himself in vs. 21-23, 26, 28-29?
2. V. 21 says He's going away. Where is He going? What does His going away has to do with the Jews' dying in sin?
3. In vs. 23-24, Jesus contrasts himself with the Jews. How is Jesus different from the Jews? What does this difference has to do with their dying in sin?
4. In v. 28, he elaborates on the theme of his dying and our salvation, saying that when He's "lifted up...you will know that I am he". What does He mean? How would His death prove that He is God?
5. What was the Jews' reaction to Jesus' statement? What does it reveal about their faith?

6. vs. 26-29 talks about Jesus' mission on earth. What is it? How is His relationship with the Father who sent Him?

Vs. 31-47 Jesus reveals our condition & offers to set us free

1. To those who believed, Jesus teaches them with a conditional statement. What are the conditions? What are the results? Based on vs. 32 & 36, how does Jesus define truth? What kind of freedom is He offering? How would holding on to His teaching & being a disciple lead to freedom?
2. From the Jews' protest in vs. 33 & 39, what would you conclude about their perception of their need for Jesus' help to experience freedom? What are the Jews' 2 claims? How does Jesus dismantle their claims? What does He say was their spiritual condition? Whom do they belong to? Why is He so harsh & blunt? What is His purpose?
3. As you reflect on your spiritual condition, what do you need from Jesus? What would you like Him to set you free from?

Vs 48-59 Jesus is God & offers eternal life

1. How do the Jews react to Jesus' revelation about their spiritual condition? How does Jesus respond to their accusation? Why do you think He didn't defend their accusation of Samaritan? Instead of defending, what does He offer them in v.51?
2. The Jews clearly heard Jesus' offer of eternal life & are able to repeat them verbatim. What is preventing them from accepting Jesus' 2nd offer? On what basis is Jesus qualified to offer the gift of eternal life? Who bears witness to Jesus' claim to be the "I am"? What does Jesus mean when He claims to be "I am"? (See Ex 3:14; Rev 21:6)
3. In the way Jesus handles the Jews' doubts & struggles, He leaves no room for middle ground about Him. We have to either accept Him as God or liar or demon-possessed. He would not settle for just a good teacher, healer, or miracle-maker. Who do you think He is? How is your intellectual view of Him substantiated by your behavior? How does your practice of religion help or hinder you from knowing Him more?
4. From today's study, what have you learned about yourself & your need for God? What do you need to do to gain freedom and eternal life?

Questions & Potential Answers

Relating

What does freedom mean to you? In what ways are you a free man/woman? In what ways are you not free?

Dictionary:

- The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.
- Absence of subjection to foreign domination or despotic government.

Background

This passage took place towards the end of Jesus' ministry when He began to show His disciples that He'll be a suffering Master. His Kingship is not one that would rule in this world but He would die & by His death, we will have life. Because of this, many started to abandon Him. The Jewish leaders were determined to kill Him. Others are confused about Him. (See John 6:60, 66; 7:1, 20, 41-44.) The audience was a mixed one with His disciples, seekers, unbelievers, and Jewish leaders who were ready to kill Him. In this passage, Jesus will show us who He is, who we are, and offers us freedom and eternal life.

Read the passage

1. Divide the group into 2 groups. Group 1 read the sayings of Jesus. Group 2 read the sayings of the Jews. Leader will narrate.
2. Assign 1 member to read the sayings of Jesus. A few to read the sayings of the Jews who would pretend to be Jewish leaders who wanted to kill Jesus. Others will be divided into 3 groups with the assignment to imagine themselves as:
 - a. Believers of Jesus
 - b. People who wants to kill Jesus
 - c. people who are confused about Jesus

Check in with each of the groups & invite them to share about the thoughts or emotions they experienced during reading.

Vs. 21-30 Jesus reveals He is God

1. Jesus initiates a dialog with the Jews. What are some of the things He's telling them about Himself in vs. 21-23, 26, 28-29? Can you try to summarize each of the 3 different claims?
 - vs.21-23 - He's going away to where they cannot go; they'll look for Him; they'll die in their sin; He's from above, not of this world; if they do not believe in Him, they'll die in their sins. (Jesus belongs to heaven.)
 - v. 26 - His mission is to tell the world what He heard from God. (His mission is to tell us about the way to heaven.)

- Vs. 28-29 - When He's lifted up (dies on the cross), they'll know that He is God; He obeys God; God is with Him & is pleased with Him. (He'll provide us the way to heaven.)
2. V. 21 says He's going away. Where is He going? What does His going away to heaven has to do with the Jews' dying in sin?
 - He's returning to heaven.
 - Because He knows the way, He can show us the way to heaven.
 3. In vs. 23-24, Jesus contrasts himself with the Jews. How is Jesus different from the Jews? What does this difference has to do with their dying in sin?
 - He belongs to above, not this world. They are from below, from this world.
 - Because He does not belong to this world & is from above, He is in position to save us.
 4. In v. 28, he elaborates on the theme of his dying and our salvation, saying that when He's "lifted up...you will know that I am he". What does He mean? How would His death prove that He is God?
 - When He's lifted up to the cross to die
 - His death & resurrection demonstrates He is God.
 5. What is the Jews' reaction to Jesus' statement? What does it reveal about their faith?
 - They question who He is. They do not believe that He's in the position to save them.
 6. vs. 26-29 talks about Jesus' mission on earth. What is it? How is His relationship with the Father who sent Him?
 - He is sent to tell the world what the Father has entrusted Him.
 - He came to die to show us the way to God.
 - God sent Him, taught Him, is with Him, has not left Him alone, Jesus does what pleases Him. The relationship is one of trust, obedience & intimacy.

Vs. 31-47 Jesus reveals our condition & offers to set us free

1. To those who believed, Jesus teaches them with a conditional statement. What are the conditions? What are the results? Based on vs. 32 & 36, how does Jesus define truth? What kind of freedom is He offering? How would holding on to His teaching & being a disciple lead to freedom?
 - Conditions: believe, hold on to His teaching, really His disciples
 - Results: know the truth, the truth will set them free.
 - the Son is truth
 - Freedom from the bondage of sin, to walk in the truth, to behave differently.
2. From the Jews' protest in vs. 33 & 39, what would you conclude about their perception of their need for Jesus' help to experience freedom? What are the Jews' 2 claims? How does Jesus dismantle their claims? What does He say was their spiritual condition? Whom do they belong to? Why is He so harsh & blunt? What is His purpose?
 - They are blind to their need. They are satisfied in their religious state.
 - They claim to be Abraham's descendants - heirs of God's promises & God's children - heirs of everything that belongs to God.

- Jesus agrees with their 1st claim to be Abraham's children in a physical sense but challenges their claims by pointing to their behaviors - not doing what Abraham does (i.e. having faith in God), liars, murderer, looking for a way to kill (37, 40), showing them that their behaviors are consistent with the devil's behaviors.
 - 2nd Claim: If they were God's children, they would love Jesus. The fact that they won't hear Jesus, proves their belonging to the devil who is a murderer & a father of liars.
 - His purpose is to open their eyes to see their real spiritual condition so that they can repent. In v. 43, Jesus mourns their stubbornness.
3. As you reflect on your spiritual condition, what do you need from Jesus? What would you like Him to set you free from?

Vs 48-59 Jesus is God & offers eternal life

1. How do the Jews react to Jesus' revelation about their spiritual condition? How does Jesus respond to their accusation? Why do you think He didn't defend their accusation of Samaritan? Instead of defending, what does He offer them in v.51?
 - They accused Jesus of being a Samaritan (impure breed, illegitimate & not Abraham's child & therefore, not God's people; this is the greatest insult of their day, like the F word) & demon-possessed.
 - Jesus denied the accusation of being demon-possessed. Jesus points to God as the judge and the one who seeks His glory. He does not address the accusation of being Samaritan because He's willing to be identified with the scum & rejects of this world. He loves all.
 - He offers them eternal life through obedience of His word.
2. The Jews clearly heard Jesus' offer of eternal life & are able to repeat them verbatim. What is preventing them from accepting Jesus' 2nd offer? On what basis is Jesus qualified to offer the gift of eternal life? Who bears witness to Jesus' claim to be the "I am"? What does Jesus mean when He claims to be "I am"? (See Ex 3:14; Rev 21:6)
 - Stubbornness, pride, & their human logic that Jesus were younger than Abraham. They project their pride onto Jesus.
 - The Father glorifies Jesus; Jesus is the only one who knows & obeys God; Jesus does not lie.
 - God and Abraham testify about Jesus.
 - He claims to be God.
3. In the way Jesus handles the Jews' doubts & struggles, He leaves no room for middle ground about Him. We have to either accept Him as God or liar or demon-possessed. He would not settle for just a good teacher, healer, or miracle-maker. Who do you think He is? How is your intellectual view of Him substantiated by your behavior? How does your practice of religion help or hinder you from knowing Him more?
4. From today's study, what have you learned about yourself & your need for God? What do you need to do to gain freedom and eternal life?