



**March 4-5, 2023**

**John 8:31-59**

**Ice Breaker Questions**

- In today's text, Jesus explains that a person's response to him and his word flows out of their spiritual heritage. How has your own spiritual heritage affected your willingness to obey Jesus? In your opinion, has your heritage hindered you or helped you?

**Understand Their Story**

John 8:31-59 relates the final events of the week-long Feast of Booths, which was first introduced in John 7. Jesus invited the crowd to come to him for living water, and stated that he is the light of the world (John 8:12). As he ends this festival, he is speaking in the temple (John 8:20), and challenges the Jews to respond rightly to his word. There are several prominent themes in this text and we'll investigate two below:

1. **Textual Bookends.** The conversation that we're about to examine is explosive. Before we dive into it, let's see how it affected the people. What do we learn about his audience in the first verse of this text? What do we learn about the audience in the last verse of this text?
2. **Theme #1 - The Word of God**
  - a. How SHOULD people respond to Jesus' word according to John 8:31-36 and John 8:48-59?
    - i. What does their response to his word demonstrate about the nature of their faith?
    - ii. What happens to people if they respond positively to Jesus' word according to these verses?
  - b. How DO the 'Jews who had believed in him' respond to Jesus' word according to John 8:36-47?
3. **Theme #2 - The People of God**
  - a. What do peoples' response to Jesus' words demonstrate about their spiritual heritage according to these verses?
  - b. What would someone who is "of God" do with Jesus according to these verses?
  - c. What is the root of sin and rebellion according to these verses?

**Connect to His Story.**

**4. The People of the God (Part II)**

- a. How does Genesis 3:1-6 explain John 8:43-45? What is the root of peoples' sin and rebellion?

- b. Read Romans 6:16-20. What sets people free from slavery to sin? How does this happen?
- c. Read Titus 3:3-8. What sets people free from slavery to sin?
  - i. How do these verses encourage you today? How do they shape your prayers?

### Apply to Our Story

- 5. The Word of God (Part II)** In John 8, Jesus exhorts people to abide (remain) in and keep his word. Other parts of scripture tell us HOW to do this. Read the following texts and record what you learn. (*Note: If you're running out of time, read the summaries we've provided on the "answer" page.*)

- a. Deuteronomy 5:28-33
- b. Psalm 1:1-2
- c. 2 Timothy 1:13-14
- d. Hebrews 10:19-23

- i. How do these verses challenge or convict you? Are you remaining in his word? What might you do, this week, to be more closely connected to Jesus and his word?

- Pray for each other: Pray that you would respond in confession and repentance when you are corrected by the word of God. Pray that you would know the truth, which sets you free from slavery to sin.
- Pray for those who you know who don't believe. Pray that God would make room in their hearts for his word, so that it can convict and challenge them.

---

### God's work and our Work

#### How All of Life Connects to the Gospel - in John 8:31-59

In John 8:31-59, Jesus puts together the following cause and effect chain. If someone is "of God" (v47) (if God is their father v42), they will love Jesus (v42), abide in and keep Jesus' words (v31 and v 51). As a result, they will be set free from slavery to sin (v32-36) and they won't see death (v51)! Jesus is teaching that our heart responses to his word, and our everyday actions and reactions flow FROM our identity. We will start walking in step with the Spirit as a result of being adopted into God's family.

In Galatians 5, Paul says, "walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh...."

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these...

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

If you are of God, the Spirit and the Son HAVE SET YOU FREE from slavery to the 'works of the flesh' (listed in verses 19-21). Do you believe this? As you think about your roles in specific areas of your life (your workplace, your family, your neighborhood, the place you volunteer), do you need to remind yourself that your passions and desires have been crucified with Christ? Which 'passion' do you need to confess to the Lord? Which fruit are you asking the Spirit to produce?