**JESUS SETS US FREE**

John 8:31-59, Key Verse: 8:31,32

1. Review what had happened in the first half of chapter 8. How had many people responded to Jesus’ words? (30) Why? (Ro10:17) Read verses 31-32. To whom was Jesus speaking? Why was their initial faith in him not enough? What can we learn here?
2. Read verse 31 again. What does the word “disciple” mean? (Think of some key traits of a disciple.) Why is it hard for us to be a disciple of someone else? In what sense did God make all human beings to be his “disciples”? (See Ge1:26-27; Eph5:1) How are commitment and “cost” essential to discipleship? (Lk8:21; 9:57-62)
3. Read verse 31 again. To what must we make a commitment? What does it mean to “hold to” Jesus’ teaching? (15:5) To “have no room” for his word? (8:37) To “keep” his word? (51,55) What is the difference between knowing his word in our minds and obeying his word in practical life? (Lk8:14)
4. What are some key teachings of Jesus that we must “hold to”? (Mt6:33; Lk6:27,28; 18:1; 9:23) How does this make us different? (Ro12:2)
5. Read verse 32 again. What is Jesus’ promise? What are the two main parts of this promise? What does it mean to “know the truth,” and why is this the most important pursuit in life? In what sense is this world full of deception? (Eph2:2; Heb3:13; 1Jn1:8; Jn8:44) How do we come to “know the truth? (Jn14:16,17; 16:13; 14:6)
6. What does it mean to be “set free” by the truth? (34-36) In what sense were both the woman and the Pharisees in this chapter not free? What is life like when we are set free by the truth? (Lk1:74,75) What does this mean to you personally?
7. Why were the Jews offended? (33,39a,41b) How did Jesus define who the true children of Abraham are? (39b) Why did the Jews not fit this definition? (40) Why could they not hear what Jesus was saying? (47) What happens to those who live under the influence of the devil? (44)
8. How did the Jews lash out at Jesus? (41,48) How was Jesus quite different from them? (49,50) What promise did Jesus give them, despite themselves? (51) Read verse 58. Who is Jesus, really? How did they respond?