

John 8:1-47

July 18, 2004

Themes

- Salvation, Not Condemnation (1-11)
- Signs of True Discipleship (12-20)
- Slaves to Sin; Free in Christ (21-38)
- Spiritual Identity (39-47)

These themes fit together with identity being central. We are true disciples first of all because of our identity in Christ. When we were placed in Christ, the power of sin was broken so that we were no longer slaves to sin.

Salvation, Not Condemnation (1-4)

A Woman Caught in Adultery

- Since last time: Each went to his own home, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives (7:53-8:1)
 - Should someone have invited Jesus to their home?
 - Did Jesus spend the night in prayer?
- Setting: At dawn...in the temple courts...he sat down to teach (v.2)
- Brought a woman caught in adultery (v.3-4)
 - They did this while Jesus was teaching!
 - Just how did she get caught? Where is the man?
- Moses commanded...what do you say? (v.5; cf. 1:17)

Salvation, Not Condemnation (10-11)

A Woman Caught in Adultery

Has no one condemned you? (v.10b)

*Then neither do I condemn you, Jesus declared.
(v.11b)*

- When we judge others, we are condemning ourselves, because those who pass judgment do the same things (Rom 2:1)
- There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:1)
- Jesus came not to condemn, but to save (3:17-18; 5:24)

The Light of the World (12)

True Discipleship: Walking in the Light

"Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness" (v.12)

- Having dealt with the rude interruption, Jesus returns to His teaching
- Jesus is the light of the world (here and 9:5)
- Light reveals; darkness hides
- The fact that we too, are the light of the world (Mt 5:14) follows from the fact that Christ Himself is our life (Col 3:4)
- More on The Light of the World in Chapter 9

The Light of the World (12)

True Discipleship: Walking in the Light

- Light speaks of the glory, the radiance, the beauty, and the wonders of God.
- Light is self-revealing (by its very nature, it makes itself known).
- Light speaks of the white purity of God and the stainless holiness of God.
- Light also guides men (Ps 119:105)
- Habakkuk in his prayer declared that God's **splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand...** [Hab 3:4].
- See also Ez 1:25-28; Da 7:9; Rev 1:16b.

Slaves to Sin; Free in Christ (24-30)

Unbelief Versus Faith In Christ

“if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.” (8:24)

- One must accept Jesus for who He claimed to be (Son of God, Son of Man, Messiah) or perish in sin.
- Jesus is not only sufficient for salvation, but He is necessary. He is the only way.

Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him. (8:30)

- As in the previous chapter (7:31), many believed in Jesus even in the midst of harsh opposition.
- They believed because of what was spoken.

Slaves to Sin; Free in Christ (31-32)

Obedience Leads to Freedom

“Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.’” (v.31)

○ Some other marks of true discipleship

- A changed life, for God's grace is not without effect (1Co 15:10).
- Fruitfulness (15:8)
- Love for the brethren (1Jn 3:14)

“you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (v.32)

- This verse should not be taken out of context; it goes with verse 31.
- When one holds to Jesus' teaching, thus showing themselves to be His disciple, **then** he will know the truth and the truth will set him free.

Slaves to Sin; Free in Christ (34-36)

Freedom From Sin

“everyone who [commits sin] is a slave to sin” (8:34)

- “Commits” renders *poion* (present active participle, continuous habit or practice)
- Not *poiesas* (aorist active participle for single act), precisely as in 1Jn 3:4-8

“if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (8:36)

- “It is for freedom that Christ set us free” (Gal 5:1)

Spiritual Identity (39-47)

The Identity Verses

Verse	Identity	Behavior
JOH 8:39 "Abraham is our [natural] father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's [spiritual] children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did."	If you were Abraham's [spiritual] children,	then you would do the things Abraham did.
JOH 8:40 As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things.	<i>Not spiritual children of Abraham</i>	you are determined to kill me
JOH 8:41 You are doing the things your own father does	Sons of their father the devil (cf. v.44)	You are doing the things your own father does
JOH 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me"	If God were your Father	you would love me
JOH 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire.	You belong to your father, the devil	you want to carry out your father's desire
JOH 8:47 He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."	He who belongs to God	hears what God says
JOH 8:47 He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."	you do not belong to God.	you do not hear
<i>Italics denote that an inference has been made.</i>		

Spiritual Identity (39-47)

Conclusion: Behavior Follows from Identity

- Jesus is reasoning that behavior follows from identity.
 - The devil lies because he is a liar
 - Men do not sin and then become sinners; they sin because they are born sinners (Ps 51:5)
 - We don't **do** in order to **become**
 - We **become** in order to **do**

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