

(in)VISIBLE FATHERS

John 8:31-59

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, John, abide in my word, abide, truth, disciples, set you free, freedom, sin, Abraham, slave to sin, the Son, kill, word, Father, works, Abraham's children, God, sent, devil, father's desires, murderer, liar, father of lies, convicts, hears, words of God, Jews, Samaritan, demon, honor, glory, judge, truly truly, death, prophets, are you greater, know God, rejoiced, I AM, stones, hid, temple

Introduction

Jesus continues teaching and drawing dividing lines during his exchange with the Pharisees at the temple. The heated debate continues, but the gloves are about to come off. Jesus extends an invitation to thirsty souls because he is the source of living water. He is the light of the world, greater than the pillar of cloud and fire that led the Israelites in the wilderness. Jesus will lead the way for pilgrims making their way to a new and better Promised Land. The debate continues, but it will end with these Jewish leaders picking up stones to execute Jesus.

Jesus explains that true disciples must possess saving faith, not just profess it. True disciples make their home in Jesus' word and remain there. They treasure it, read it, meditate on it, obey it, and hold to it when others oppose it. True freedom from sin can only be found in the Son, who has the authority and power to liberate the captives. Everybody has one of two (in)VISIBLE FATHERS. Jesus, the great I AM, offers true freedom and eternal life.

Outline

True disciples live in the world the way Jesus defines it in his word (v. 31).

Everybody needs to be freed from the bondage of sin (vv. 32-26).

The paternity of the soul is determined by faith in Jesus' word (vv. 39-43).

Jesus' words are not the problem, surrender is (v. 47).

True knowledge of God cannot be separated from obedience (v. 55).

Jesus is the promised liberator who will set you free from sin and death (vv. 56-58).

Application

Are you a true disciple of Jesus Christ?

Have you been set free from sin and death?

Which paternity does your life point to?

Questions

1. What is your relationship with the Bible like right now? Are there any changes you want to make? What are they?
2. What does freedom in Jesus look like? (Romans 6:16, 8:2, 15; Galatians 5:1, 13)
3. What works did Abraham do? (Genesis 15:1-6)
4. Why is the devil everyone's father to begin with? (Ephesians 2:1-3)
5. What did Jesus do to keep us from seeing death? (Ephesians 2:4-10)