

John 8:31-36

31. “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

32. and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’

33. They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?’

34. Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

35. ‘The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.

36. ‘So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.’”

In this morning’s text Jesus states that everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin, and He came to set us free. The Greek term translated as “sin” in this passage originally came from an archery term that meant “to miss the mark.” In today’s vernacular this would be to miss the bullseye or center point on a target.

It is interesting to note that the Jews miss Jesus’ point here completely. In response to Jesus’ statement that the truth will make you free, they answered Him in

verse 33--“We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?” Now that’s a ridiculous statement. In the past, the descendants of Abraham had been enslaved in Egypt and later in Babylon. And even as these Jews themselves spoke, the occupation army of Rome ruled their nation with an iron hand. As is so common with mankind, they were blind to their own condition--being so clearly in bondage, yet resolutely insisting they were free.

In the same sense, many people today think they are free. But most Americans, and indeed many Christians, are enslaved financially. The world has them hog-tied.

Their bills and debts hold them in bondage; to the point where a person can’t miss a day of work, or has to work overtime or even get a second job to make ends meet.

In these situations, Jesus’ words “the truth will make you free” can certainly apply in very real ways. Jesus can set you free from financial bondage. As a matter of fact His Word commands us to do so. Romans 13:8 states: “Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another.” In other words, to the extent that you are in debt, you are limited in your ability to love. Think of it this way, dads--the more overtime you have to work, the less time you have with your family. And they need you more than all the things you are working to pay for.

For this reason, Christ's Church is bringing a Biblical, financial workshop to Kalispell--Saturday, January 15th. If you believe Jesus, that His truth can set you free, and if you have missed the mark with your finances so far, this free, 4 hour workshop is just for you. For more information and to register, call me, Steve Compton, at 751-8840 or 862-6765. That's 751-8840 or 862-6765. Remember Jesus promises: "If you continue in My Word, you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."