

## **2009 #13 GOSPEL OF JOHN – WHOSE CHILDREN ARE WE**

John 8:31-47

Last week Jesus message was that we can

Live a safe and secure life.

Today Jesus wants to teach us that

The truth can set us free.

We used to sing:

Where have all the flowers gone,

Long time passing.

Where have all the flowers gone

Long time ago.

Today we can exchange truth for flowers.

Where has all the truth gone

Long time passing

Where has all the truth gone.

Long time ago.

### **We live in a world of deceit, payoff, bribes, scams**

#### **Dishonesty and just plain lies.**

Where has all the truth gone?

Who tells the truth today?

A woman rushes to see her doctor, looking very much worried and all strung out. She rattles off, "Doctor, take a look at me. When I woke up this morning, I looked at myself in the mirror and saw my hair all wiry and frazzled up. "My skin was all wrinkled and pasty, my eyes were blood-shot and bugging out, and I look pale as a corpse, What's wrong with me Doctor?" The doctor looks her over for a couple of minutes, then calmly says, "Well, I can tell you that there nothing wrong with your eyesight."

A USA Today poll found only 56% of American parents teach honesty to their children.

What do the other 44% teach?

It wasn't long ago a noted physician appeared on a TV-talk show and proclaimed, "Lying is an important part of social life, and children who are unable to do it are children who may have developmental problems." Our Daily Bread, Sept. 23, 1991

### **Jesus said you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.**

We expect dishonesty in 3rd world countries,

But not in America.

We don't expect to pay bribes,

We don't expect senate seats to be sold.

We don't expect elections to be rigged.

We don't expect voters to be fraudulent

We don't expect bills to be filled with pork.

We don't expect our elected official to vote on bills before they read them or write them.

That just goes against the constitution of our great country.

And against the constitution of our very soul

And the very nature of our creator.  
Where has all the truth gone?

Abraham Lincoln said: No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar.  
Where has all the truth gone?  
A storm is breaking over America because  
We have a broken scale of justice.  
America is teaching us to be suspect of every phone call.,  
Every business deal,  
Every email and hacker is seeking to steal our identity.

Where has all the truth gone?  
The honesty and integrity  
Of "what you see is what you get"  
That a handshake is good enough.  
That we can turn our backs without fear.

Jesus addresses this with the people.  
Jesus said:

#### **I. TRUTH SETS THE SOUL FREE**

**<sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

If you continue in my word,  
Hold to the truth.  
To hold is to hold on.  
To endure  
To persist.

When I was growing up on the farm  
My brother and I played a lot in the hay loft of our barn.  
We had this rope and pulley system that brought hay into the barn  
That rope made a great swing.  
But we learned one thing that  
You had better hold as you rode it all the way out and back.  
Because if you let go you fell a long way.  
The consequence could be broken bones.

It is not enough to *receive* God's word of truth-  
we must hold on to it.  
We must *retain* and *walk* in it.  
To do that we must read it and study it.  
Jesus said: only then will you be a genuine disciple.

**"If you love me, you will obey what I command." John 14:15**

Apostle John writes:

**We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. <sup>4</sup>The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. I John 2:3-4**

Jesus was now talking to those who were just converted.  
They had heard his single sermon  
And they had believed.  
They had had no time to test their faith.  
Jesus was saying don't trust your feelings,  
If your faith is true and real, then it should produce  
obedience to my commandments.  
Truth is the fruit that sets the Christian free.

The Jews had a proverb  
"That no man was free, but he who exercised himself in the meditation of the law."  
But Jesus was saying that  
It is not God law that sets us free but God's son.  
**"I am the way, the truth, and the life,** the way to total freedom.  
If you know the truth then the truth will set you free.

John Wesley thought telling the truth was so important for his soul that he said:  
I would not tell one lie to save the souls of all the world. - John Wesley

Pauls writes to Romans  
**Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1**  
Oh what a exhilarating freedom there is in Christ.  
When the truth breaks our bondage to sin and set the soul free.  
Jesus sets the soul free.

## JESUS SETS THE **II. HEART FREE ---FROM SALAVERY**

Now Jesus turns from talking to the people to  
the other Jews who had not believed.  
the carping, conniving Pharisees;

**<sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants<sup>F46</sup> and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" John 8:33**

we have never been slave of anyone.

Come on, Pharisees

They had been slave of seven mighty nations,  
Including Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, the Chaldea, Persia.  
the Macedonians, and now the Romans.

What is amazing about this is it  
was not only false but it was ridiculous.

Are we any different as Christian today  
 When we cast judgment on new believers  
 Because we have so quickly forgotten what we were.  
 Where we were.  
 As slaves to sin.

Like the President of Iran saying the Holocaust of the Jews didn't happen.  
 When we get away from the truth,  
 We come under the influence of the spirit of falsehood and error  
 We will say anything to save ourselves  
 No matter how ridiculous or far from the truth it may be.

The Pharisees used Abraham to show that as God's children.  
 Their spirits were never in bondage.  
 They didn't need Jesus.

**<sup>34</sup>Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. John 8:34**

They said We are children of Abraham.

We are free.

Jesus says: :

**<sup>37</sup>I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word. <sup>38</sup>I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what you have heard from your father.<sup>F47</sup> " John 8:34-**

You may be descendents of Abraham,  
 But you are now slaves of another father.  
 You are living in darkness of sin and death.

Jesus isn't talking about *political* bondage,  
 But the soul bondage to evil passions and desires.  
 He is talking about spiritual bondage that  
 That keeps us from the Father's will and testimony.

Aren't' we just like those Pharisees  
 We think we're right, and we set our feet firm.  
 But much to the dismay of our God.  
 We are still living in a disobedient and rebellious state.  
 What will it take to awaken us to our need.  
 But that is exactly why Jesus came.

**The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, Isaiah 61:1**

**Jesus sets OUR HEARTS FREE FROM DARKNESS OF SIN AND DEATH**

Jesus truth sets

**III. THE MIND FREE ---TO CHOOSE**

Even though they were trying to kill him.

Jesus was reaching out to the Pharisees.

**<sup>37</sup>I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word. John 8:37**

Our Lord Jesus desires not one be lost.

**The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

**II Peter 3:9**

This is good news for us today.

We all know people and sometime ourselves.

Who get caught up in sin that clings to us.

Our pride won't let it go.

We may have influence in the community.

We may even read our bible and pray,

But our hearts remain hard.

Unwilling to obey.

They answered

**<sup>39</sup>"Abraham is our father," they answered.**

In other words we're not listening to you.

And they closed their ear to the truth.

What causes us to twist the truth?

To live a life of lies and dishonesty.

Is it because sin has blinded our eyes.

we can no longer see clearly the truth.

Because we don't want to.

It is sad thing when a person ignores God's spirit of truth.

It is even more sad when they set out to go against it.

And even deeper darkness when they persecute and try to destroy those who teach it and live it.

Jesus tries to reach them.

You say you are Abrahams Children,

Then why are you

**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. <sup>41</sup>You are doing the things your own father does." John 8:40-41**

They protest,

We're religious people

We love God.

**<sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. John 8:42**

Then Jesus shows us how sin really affect us.

He says:

**<sup>43</sup>Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. John 8:43**

Here Jesus makes one last attempt to reach them.

Jesus says: You are in a dangerous position.

**<sup>44</sup>You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44:**

Like father like son.

Jesus pleads,

Don't let Satan keep you in darkness.

Jesus says the proof of it is in their evil hearts,

**<sup>47</sup>He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God." John 8:47**

At this point they shout that he is demon possessed

And they actually want to stone him.

But Jesus walks away.

Where has all the truth gone?

Sometimes in our lives no matter what we do or how hard

We try to reach our children, our neighbors, or our family,

And they won't listen

They just walk away.

Don't give up, God never stops trying to save.

And sometimes the truth breaks thru

And the child of rebellion

Comes home to the father.

And oh what joy

What celebration in the kingdom of God.

Over One sinner who repents.

Let's pray and let God's Spirit do the rest.