

Freed by The Son

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never 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 practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

We believers are free people not for worldly reasons, but through Jesus Christ. Greetings in the Lord as we rejoice in this our country, the United States of America on its 250th Anniversary of its independence. We praise God for this land, which has given us the freedom to worship the Lord and build our lives as we see fit. Today’s topic, according to the occasion, is freedom itself. We are going to talk about the freedom that Christ bestows on us, which is something that we receive when we come to faith in Him and in which we grow as we remain in faith as we journey this life. I hope that through this message, that you will continue to see the importance of our inner spiritual life and its effect on our everyday works. Let’s go deeper...

The disciple of Jesus is the one that finds true freedom. In the passage, the Lord told the Jews that believed in Him that they would be His disciples if they remained faithful to His teachings. What was important to understand was that it was not about just believing in Him, but also to remain in Him, the original Greek verb having a continuous understanding. God wants those who believe in Jesus to always follow Him. Jesus is not calling us to just believe after getting to know Him and then cool off in our devotion to Him. Unfortunately, His hearers got upset at Him, because they believed that knowing God (the Father) already made them free people. Jesus said, however, that because of sin, every human being was a slave. And as a slave, one could never become a son of the family. The Son, however, could free the slave, to become a free human being. Because of that, Jesus, as the Son of God’s family, had a right to free those who were bound by the shackles of sin, since all humanity, including the Jews that had believed in Him, were slaves of sin. They thought that being a descendant of Abraham exempted them from spiritual slavery. Unfortunately, they were spiritually deaf. They could not hear the Son of God. They didn’t have room in their hearts for Jesus’ words. That in itself was the work of the devil. They, by their own hand were making the devil their father by rejecting Jesus.

Today there are many people that consider themselves as part of God’s family, like those Jews, but are only superficial believers. Unfortunately, they do not persevere in their faith in the ups and downs of life – they don’t put an effort to remain in Christ’s teachings. Their lives are not changed by the Lord; worldly things still occupy the highest place of importance in their lives.

Jesus invites us all not only to believe in Him and rejoice, but also to stay with Him through our lives. It is within that perseverance that we find our freedom. As long as we live in and for Jesus, the effects of sin and death, the sense of defeat cannot stick to us – we can live as truly free people.

True freedom is spiritual freedom, which does not carry the defeat of sin and death. We as believers obtain and experience that freedom as long as we remain in faith toward the Lord throughout our lives.

Therefore, let us persevere; let us continue our journeys. God grows us throughout the process, because His salvation and truth are limitless and profound.

The disciple of Jesus is the one that finds true freedom. God bless you all. Amen.