

Study Guide - “Free Indeed” for 7-1-2018

Key Scriptures: “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:34-36)

Luke 12:15 “And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

James 3:16 “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Romans 5:19 “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”

Start Talking:

- The context of John 8:34-36 is being a slave to or free from sin. Considering verse 36, how does it make you feel to hear someone who claims to be an ex-alcoholic introduce themselves at a sobriety meeting as, “Hello, I’m _____ and I’m an alcoholic”? Is he an alcoholic, or is he free indeed from that sin? Discuss.
- Why do you think many people get confused between what they need and what they want? What are some examples of this confusion?
- If you could go to your last dying thoughts, do you think you would regret not spending more time working, or being with loved ones? Do you know someone who intentionally works longer to avoid contact with others?

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- Read Luke 12:13-21. Are you planning too much for retirement, not enough, or just the right amount? Is this a difficult decision? Discuss.

Start Thinking:

- Luke 12: 20-21 reads, “But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” Does having lots of possessions usually make someone richer towards God, or stingier? Share your opinion or examples.
- In Matthew 22:21, Jesus said to “Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s.” Is it easier to pay your taxes in full or give every part of your heart to God? Discuss.

Start Sharing:

- Pastor Bobby said that he doesn’t let the success of a pastor friend’s church affect who his friends are. How do you choose friends - by their success, because of like interests, because of what they can do for you, etc.? How does God want you to choose? How do most people choose?
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, “for God loves a cheerful giver.” How difficult is it to give from what you have to others? Is it easier for those who have little or those who have a lot? Discuss.
- Pastor Bobby said, “We don’t obey our way to righteousness. We submit unto righteousness.” Discuss the difference between obey unto righteousness and submitting unto righteousness.

Start Praying:

“Lord, help us to deal with the issues than tempt us to have what others have, even though we may have all that we need. We are ready to be cheerful givers, regardless of how much we have to give.”

Start Doing:

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- Pastor Bobby said, “Kids raised with more correction than affection have no confidence in life.” How can someone overcome the influences of their upbringing and develop more confidence in life?
- What do you think when you hear someone say, “We’re just ole sinners saved by grace”? Are they still ole sinners, or are they saints? Discuss.
- Pastor Bobby relayed that according to the Bible, we are righteous people who struggle with sin. Do you consider yourself exactly like this, or a sinner who tries to be righteous? Share.