

Lasting, Expectant Belief

John 8:30-59

vs. 30, Many believed in him. Did they?
Was it a lasting belief? What does belief truly mean?

Continue in the words of Jesus.
Continue in the teachings of Jesus.
Continue in the message of Jesus.

To follow Jesus is the acceptance of sacrifice.
Power, Pride, and Prestige (there is no place for such values in God's kingdom).

The words of Jesus pierce the heart.

Amos 5:21-24 I hate, I despise, your feasts! I can't stand the stench of your solemn assemblies. **22** Even if you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; I will have no regard for your fellowship offerings of fattened cattle. **23** Take away from me the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. **24** But let justice flow like water, and righteousness, like an unfailing stream.

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. **14** How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.

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John 15:4 Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

Remain / Continue / Abide in the truth of Jesus.
This is the source and never ending stream of freedom!

Question: What does it mean for you to continue in the words of Jesus? How do you remain on the narrow path of kingdom living? What encourages you? What distracts you?

Remember: the backdrop is the Feast of Tabernacles.

vs. 26, The one who sent me is true,
vs. 32, You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

As you continue to follow Jesus, truth becomes more and more clear and more and more freeing.

Freedom is the good news of Jesus.

- The good news of Jesus isn't simply freedom from this world, for a new life after death.
- The message, promise, and truth of Jesus is that freedom can take place in the here and now!

vs. 33, Earthly perspective -> slave / free
What are they saying?

vs. 34-38, Sin enslaves
You incorrectly rest and assume safety because of your genetic family tree. Who is your family?

There is life in the Son.

vs. 39, Abraham is our father.

Genesis 15:6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Romans 4:1-5 What then will we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? **2** If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about—but not before God. **3** For what does the Scripture say? **Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness.** **4** Now to the one who works, pay is not credited as a gift, but as something owed. **5** But to the one who does not work, but believes on him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited for righteousness.

Righteous -> Right Relationship

- Abraham was in right relationship with God.
- Abraham was ready and willing to accept the message and the messenger from God (Genesis 18:1-3).
- Abraham trusted deeply in the promises of God.

You may have a genetic link to Abraham, but your behavior reveals your spiritual paternity!

- Jesus imitates his Father's activity.
- Jesus' opponents are acting the way they are because they too are imitating their father.

What are they trying to do?
They are trying to kill Jesus.

vs. 41, We weren't born of sexual immorality, We have one Father - God.

2 possible meanings

1. They are insulting the birth of Jesus.
2. They are making it clear they are descendants of Isaac and not Ishmael.

vs. 42-44, If that were true you would love me.

Your attitudes and actions continue to reveal who your father is.
It isn't Abraham.
It isn't Yahweh.
Your father is the devil.

He is a murderer from the beginning.
He is the opposite of truth. There is no truth in him.
He is a liar and the father of lies.

Psalms 50:16-20 But God says to the wicked: "What right do you have to recite my statutes and to take my covenant on your lips? **17** You hate instruction and fling my words behind you. **18** When you see a thief, you make friends with him, and you associate with adulterers. **19** You unleash your mouth for evil and harness your tongue for deceit. **20** You sit, maligning your brother, slandering your mother's son.

Bondage of every variety thrive on lies, half truths, evasions and cover-ups.
We are a people and nation in bondage!

Freedom and truth go hand in hand. What is the truth?

Question: Are you a seeker of truth? Do you tolerate deceit for personal comfort? How do you discern the consumption of information? Do you have reliable filters in place in order to be a person who grows in wisdom and understanding?

vs. 45-47, I tell the truth.
What does it mean to be a genuine believer?
The one who listens to God's words.

1 John 3:8-10 The one who commits sin is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the devil's works. **9** Everyone who has been born of God does not sin, because his seed remains in him; he is not able to sin, because he has been born of God. **10** This is how God's children and the devil's children become obvious. Whoever does not do what is right is not of God, especially the one who does not love his brother or sister.

vs. 48-50, They continue to trip over their own feet in their anger and personal justification.

vs. 51, If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.

vs. 52-59, Falling deeper and deeper into the abyss of their own deceit.

Jesus speaks truth!

- God the father glorifies Jesus.
- Jesus knows the Father and keeps his word.
- Abraham rejoices in the day of the coming of the Messiah.
- I am.

John continues to unveil the true identity of Jesus.

Jesus is himself the eschatological temple.

Those who abide in him (15:4) will permanently dwell in the Father's household.

I Am: the secret and holy name of God.

Jesus speaks and acts in such unity with the Father that he can use the same name to refer to himself and his mission.

Question: No matter the volume or intensity of the world, have you trained yourself to listen patiently and carefully to the Holy Spirit?