

John 8:31-59 – 24 May 2026

“True Sons Of Abraham”

Introduction

*Chap 6 began Jesus’ 3rd year of public ministry

*From Chap 7-10a Jesus is at the Feast of Tabernacles and the days following

*Jesus is into the heart of His mission to give them the life-giving *clear* truth that *He* is the way to salvation

*Jesus always put His finger directly on the item that someone was erroneously trusting in for eternal life

*Exp: Rich, Young Ruler was trusting in riches

*Today Jesus puts His finger on what the Jews trusted and that is – their heritage & national identity

*Jesus teaches that being natural children of Abraham doesn’t matter – they need to be spiritual children (or followers) of Abraham

Today, we’ll see 3 results of living the truth that Abraham believed

#1 – You’ll be set free from sin (Vs 31-36)

Read 8:31-32

1. Abiding in God’s Word is the sanctification process – becoming like Christ & unlike humanity
 - a. Read John 17:17 – *Thy Word is truth*
2. Staying in a routine of taking in the Word is proof that we’re His disciples (learners)
3. What is it that we’ll be free from?
 - a. Free from the necessity to sin
 - b. Free from the consequences of sin

Read 8:33

1. They’re clearly understanding this in a spiritual sense (not political) b/c they’re now Roman slaves
2. There is no other method to be free from sin’s power than to grow in God’s Word (sanctification)
 - a. They’re trusting in genetics or family tree
 - b. Some still think they were born Christian

Read 8:34

1. Once we’ve chosen sin & placed ourselves under its power, it then holds us under its power

2. Read Rom 6:16 – We choose what we yield to

Read 8:35-36

1. In the metaphor, the slave has been kicked out of the house for disobedience to the Father
 - a. But the Son (the obedience One) is still abiding in the house – the house of heaven
 - b. The Son can invite you into the house b/c he still lives there
2. Then we have the chose to obey sin leading to death or the Son leading to life (Read Rom 6:17-18)

#2 – You’ll become the children of God (Vs 37-47)

Read 8:37

1. You’re in a privileged earthly family but doing the wrong things
 - a. Why? B/c they’re trusting in the privileged *position* (being a Jew) instead of trusting in the *privileges* of the position (having the Word)
2. Heritage doesn’t make us God’s children, believing the truth make us God’s children

Read 8:38

1. “I’m following My Father, & you’re following your father”
 - a. He wants them to see it’s 2 different fathers

Read 8:39-41a

1. Our deeds prove what father or what source we’re listening to
 - a. Abe’s deeds were to follow God’s truth
 - b. Read Gen 15:6 – Righteousness has always come thru belief
2. Being the physical child of Abraham (thru birth) will not bring a soul freedom from sin
 - a. Being a spiritual child of Abraham (thru belief) is what brings freedom from sin

Read 8:41b-43

1. Did you notice Jesus looked right past the insult and just kept going
2. They can’t resolve (understand) His words b/c they aren’t taking them in (hearing) in the 1st place

3. If you've truly known the Father (from the O.T. readings), you would know & love Jesus
4. If you thought Jesus would leave it unclear as to whom their father is...you would be wrong

Read 8:44-47

1. To be born again is to listen to God and receive what He's saying
 - a. Only being naturally born is to not listen
2. Their nature was of the devil – rebellious, prideful
 - a. This means they're not of the spiritual truth & lineage of Abraham
 - b. It doesn't mean that they're not of the *nation* Israel
3. You're either of God or of the devil
 - a. Of God: You hear truth and find life for yourself & others
 - b. Of the devil: You don't hear truth and keep yourself & others away from life
4. Was Jesus telling *every* Jew they're not God or Abraham's child, but they're the devil's child?

- a. No, certainly many Jews were saved becoming children of God (Read Rom 8:14-15)
 - b. This isn't about the nation of Israel being evil (the nation still has purpose God will fulfill) – it's about unbelievers being of the devil
5. Being a true spiritual Jew & being of the nation of Israel can be two different things
- a. Read Rev 2:9 & 3:9 – A true spiritual Jew is saving having accepted God's revelation
 - b. Read Rom 2:28-29 – True Jews have Abe's faith

#3 – You'll be granted life from the dead (Vs 48-59)

Read 8:48-50

1. Even Jesus wasn't seeking to honor Himself but to honor His Father in heaven
2. So they finally just resort to name-calling
 - a. Samaritan – despised as half-breeds & corrupters of the true religion
 - b. The Devil – the evil one

- c. Interesting that they're convinced that Jesus has corrupted true religion, when it's them

Read 8:51-53

1. They believed rightly that Jesus was claiming to have more power than Abraham & them all
2. Jesus literally claims to have power over death
 - a. Though the promise of everlasting life was in the OT like in Dan 12:2, no person ever claimed that eternal life came from them
 - b. A direct claim to be the One who made life

Read 8:54-55

1. To answer their question, He claims to be the One that perfectly keeps the Word of the Father
2. The substance & glory of Jesus is wrapped up in the fact that He perfectly obeyed the Father

Read 8:56-57

1. When did Abraham experience being with Jesus, we don't have that info – but it happened

2. So not only was Jesus greater than Abraham, but Abraham was glad to experience it

Read 8:58-59

1. This is an unmistakable claim to divinity
 - a. The Jews want to kill Him for blasphemy
2. Jesus is equating Himself with the “I AM” of the burning bush
 - a. The self-sustaining self-existence One

Special Note

1. We’re talking about the salvation of any person including any Jew
 - a. This is what (Read) Gal 3:28-29 means
2. This is a separate discussion from the one about the nation of Israel’s future
 - a. God brought the nation back in these last days
 - b. That nation has future purpose yet coming

Conclusion

So, whether Jew or Gentile, the way to salvation has always been the same – to have the same faith as Abraham

We all believe in our helplessness & our need to receive God's righteousness to be given to us

Once we do that at the cross

1. **We're set free from sin's bondage**
2. **We become children of God**
3. **We're granted life from the dead**

Don't trust in any other source or method to obtain salvation

We can only obtain it by Jesus' shed blood on the cross

So how about you?

Are you of the synagogue of Satan or have you come into the family of God by being born again