



Find Freedom | Jordan Hansen

John 8:30-59

Free International: Meet Mike Bartel: www.freeinternational.org

Home = person → Our mission is to lead people into a GROWING relationship w/Jesus. → Mesa: Table & Flat Top Mountain

How do we do that...we set the table for people to: [Come to the Monthly MIXER to hear our heart...]

KNOW GOD

FIND FREEDOM

DISCOVER PURPOSE

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Jesus said the truth will set you free. → Tooth paste diaper cream? → Ignorance is bliss even if it is slightly terrifying.

→ We may not be physically captive, but many of us are emotional, mentally, & spiritually captive and need freedom. Jesus taught that there is no freedom without TRUTH! But the truth can be terrifying. So what did Jesus teach about freedom, sin, pluralism, the devil, death, & himself? When we follow Jesus and His teachings the truth doesn't have to be terrifying, but will lead to true freedom to become the people God has called us to be.

→ **Where can the truth of Jesus lead to freedom in my life?** → John 8:30-59

30-32: *30 Then many who heard him say these things believed in him.*

*31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. **32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**"*

The truth about FREEDOM: There is no freedom without the truth of Jesus' teaching! → Pursue truth, not freedom.

- Jesus lays it out: Belief, following = FREEDOM! → We've ALL heard it. → GK Chesterton → Brennan Manning
- VISION: Relationship w/Jesus & His Body = Groups & Teams!

→ Transition: We will never FIND FREEDOM without following Jesus & His teachings. This offended the Pharisees.

33-36: *33 "But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free'?"*

34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. 35 A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

The truth about SIN: Sin has enslaved us...ALL of us.

- Pharisees didn't recognize the threat of sin. → Commission, Omission, Thoughts. → Anybody sin? → Sons/sinners = ID
- Jesus is the only true son because He has never sinned. → Our new ID is son, not sinner. → 2 Cor. 5:17

→ Transition: The Pharisees refused to acknowledge their sin...and they doubled down and point to their "lineage."

37-41a: *37 Yes, I realize that you are descendants of Abraham. And yet some of you are trying to kill me because there's no room in your hearts for my message. 38 I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. But you are following the advice of your father.*

39 "Our father is Abraham!" they declared.

"No," Jesus replied, "for if you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow his example. 40 Instead, you are trying to kill me because I told you the truth, which I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. 41 No, you are imitating your real father."

The Truth about Pluralism: Not every road leads to God.

- “You would follow His example...” = What was Abraham’s example?→Abraham went from polytheist to monotheist.
 - Mountain vs. Maze→maze pic→Different paths contradict each other...so they cant all be true.→I explored...
 - I believe Jesus will reveal Himself to anyone who is seeking...but that is the key...you have to seek.→Jer. 29:13
 - VISION: There is room at the Table for ALL people (inclusive) to find the narrow path (exclusive) = JESUS→Jn. 14:6
- Transition: The Pharisees had hard hearts toward Jesus/His teachings...because they were “good enough.”

41b-50: They replied, “We aren’t illegitimate children! God himself is our true Father.”

42 Jesus told them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. 43 Why can’t you understand what I am saying? It’s because you can’t even hear me! 44 For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don’t believe me! 46 Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? And since I am telling you the truth, why don’t you believe me? 47 Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don’t listen because you don’t belong to God.”

48 The people retorted, “You Samaritan devil! Didn’t we say all along that you were possessed by a demon?”

49 “No,” Jesus said, “I have no demon in me. For I honor my Father—and you dishonor me. 50 And though I have no wish to glorify myself, God is going to glorify me. He is the true judge.

The Truth about The Devil: He is the father of every lie.

- Jesus claims the devil is a murderer, hates the truth, and the father of all lies.→CS Lewis Quote
 - But God is the TRUE Judge & God is going to glorify Jesus.
 - Where does the belief originate?→What does Jesus say about it?→What does God’s Word say?
- Transition: We don’t have to be worried about the Devil...but we DO need to carefully examine our beliefs.

51 I tell you the truth, anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!”

52 The people said, “Now we know you are possessed by a demon. Even Abraham and the prophets died, but you say, ‘Anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!’ 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?”

51-53: The Truth about Death: Death is our common denominator.

- Jesus promises us that death is not our final destination!→Doula quote
 - We can place our lives in the hands of God.→Celebratiopn of LIFE vs. Funeral
- Transition: The truth is...followers of Jesus need not be afraid of death.

54 Jesus answered, “If I want glory for myself, it doesn’t count. But it is my Father who will glorify me. You say, ‘He is our God,’ 55 but you don’t even know him. I know him. If I said otherwise, I would be as great a liar as you! But I do know him and obey him. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad.”

57 The people said, “You aren’t even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?”

58 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I am!” 59 At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.

54-59: The Truth about Jesus: Jesus is God.

- “Before Abraham was even born, I AM.”
 - Jesus is the TRUE Son who desires to set me free from sin.
 - Jesus is my guide through the maze of pathways to God.
 - Jesus’ will be glorified over the Devil, because He is greater than the Devil.
 - Jesus promises me eternal life because He is eternal.
 - Jesus is God = capable for forgiving my sins, making me a son, leading me through life, overcoming the Devil & Death BECAUSE...HE IS GOD!
- Do you believe this?→I BELIEVE.

→**There is NO freedom without the TRUTH that Jesus teaches!**

→PRAYER: Father help me to be faithful to your teaching so i can experience your freedom?

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. Do I believe “ignorance is bliss?” Where in my life has that idea held me captive?
2. How do most people respond to the idea of sin or that there is only one path to God?
3. How do most people respond to the idea of the devil or death?
4. Do I believe that Jesus claimed to BE God? What does the text indicate and what does it mean for me?
5. **PRAYER:** “Father, help me to be faithful to your teaching so i can experience your freedom!”

LINKS / RESOURCES:

- **The Longleat Hedge Maze in England:** <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/longleat-hedge-maze>
- **Psychology Today, "The Surprising Truth About Addiction":** <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/articles/200405/the-surprising-truth-about-addiction-0>
- **Ted Talk, "Everything We Know About Addiction is Wrong":** https://www.ted.com/talks/johann_hari_everything_you_think_you_know_about_addiction_is_wrong?language=en

QUOTES / SONGS:

"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried." - G.K. Chesterton, *What's Wrong with the World*

"What makes authentic disciples is not visions, ecstasies, biblical mastery of chapter and verse, or spectacular success in ministry, but a capacity for faithfulness. Buffeted by the fickle winds of failure, battered by their own unruly emotions, and bruised by rejection and ridicule, authentic disciples may have stumbled and frequently fallen, endured lapses and relapses, gotten handcuffed to the fleshpots and wandered into a far country. Yet, they kept coming back to Jesus." - Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*

"...in 1975, the Longleat Hedge Maze in England is the largest of several mazes on the property. The maze is constructed of more than 16,000 English yews and is the longest (but not the largest) hedge maze in the world, covering 1.48 acres and 1.69 miles of pathway. It is a full-scale maze, with several dead ends and multiple paths punctuated by six raised bridges, all of which surround a central tower." - <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/longleat-hedge-maze>

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them." - CS Lewis, from *Preface to The Screwtape Letters*, (Written 7/5/1941)

"So many people are traumatized and terrified of death. Even people with family and friends surrounding them may need help. Really, there is no other thing that we're all guaranteed to share than the fact that we're going to die." - Karen Reppen, an end-of-life doula and a member of the board of the National End-of-Life Doula Alliance

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic —on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg —or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not lei that open to us. He did not intend to. . . . Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunaGc nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God." - CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 55-56

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

2 Corinthians 5:17

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Jeremiah 29:13

13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

John 14:6

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

MESA VISION LINKS:

- Who is Mesa? Click: [ID.Mission.Vision](#)
- What is the vision of Mesa Church? Click: [Vision Sermons / Messages](#)
- Is there anything I can watch to be inspired? Click: [Grow Conference Main Sessions](#)

NEXTS STEPS:

- [Fill Out an Online Connect Card](#)
- [Join a Small Group](#)
- [Get Water Baptized](#)
- [Become a Partner of Mesa Church](#)

- [Join a Dream Team to Serve on Sundays](#)
- [Give to what God is doing](#)
- [Submit a Prayer Request](#)
- [Learn More About Fasting](#)
- [Share a testimony or story of God working in my life.](#)

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