

Freedom comes from having new FAITH

After Jesus told the crowd that if they didn't believe in him they would die in their sins, some people believed. It is important to recognize that following Christ's *teachings* does not make anyone a Christian. First, one must *believe* what Jesus claimed about himself, and *then* follow his teaching. *Belief comes before behavior!* Of those who believed, Jesus instructed them to abide (Gr. *menho*, 'to remain with, continue in') in his words. The word 'disciple' is the root of the word 'discipline' meaning 'to behave in accordance with rules of conduct.' This conduct does not save you but is the natural outflow of a life centered around the desire to please Jesus made possible by being 'born again' (John 3:3). *New belief leads to new birth!*

Freedom comes from having a new FAMILY

Although ruled by Rome, the Jews were given a certain level of autonomy, so they didn't consider their situation 'bondage' like their forefathers as slaves in Egypt. Because of this, they couldn't understand their need to be 'set free.' But Jesus was not talking about physical slavery but *spiritual* slavery. In speaking of humans being sinful, Jesus references 'commits sin' (Gr. *hamartian*, 'to practice offending God') meaning it is behavior done in a continual, habitual, natural way before being transformed. A person is a slave to whatever has mastered him (2 Pet. 2:19). *The worst reality is the one you can't escape on the inside!* Jesus, being the Son of God, has rights to the Kingdom and desires to set the slave of sin free if he is willing to come to Him and be brought into God's Family by adoption (Rom. 8:14-17). *A new faith finds a new Family!*

Freedom comes from having new FRIENDS

Israel, as 'children of Abraham,' were to be a light to the world of God's greatness but had degenerated into spiritual apostasy. Instead of recognizing the pristine life of God in Jesus, they wanted to kill him, proving they didn't have God in their hearts and that Abraham wasn't their spiritual father but the devil. *Disunity, slander, hate, and lies comes from Satan not the Savior!* As God's children, believers should strive to influence and be influenced by godly people. Ungodly people should either be removed by yourself or God. *Don't let the ungodly block the stream of God's blessing!*