



The Truth & Freedom

John 8

8:1-11 – How may we turn no-win situations around?

When we face no-win situations, we'll benefit from following the example of Jesus. John 8:1-11 tells the story of the Pharisees trying to trap Jesus by bringing a woman caught in adultery before Him. If Jesus agreed they should stone the woman, He'd be usurping Roman judicial authority and if He excused her, He'd be defying the Law of Moses. Jesus turned this no-win situation around by saying, *"If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her"* (NIV). Jesus artfully took the focus off His decision and put it on the woman's accusers. So when we have no good options, we should look for ways to involve others in the decision. This will turn a no-win situation into a win-win outcome for all involved.

8:12 – How may we never walk in darkness?

We can see where we're going if the actions we take are in the light of Jesus. Jesus said in John 8:12, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"* (NIV). If we're following Jesus, we can see where we're going in life because the truth of Christ is foundational to all truth. Not following Jesus is effectively denying the truth and such self deception eventually infects other facets of our world view. When we follow Jesus, we have the capacity to learn what is really important in life. Our job then becomes a place to practice loving God and associates. As we see God working through us, we will grow in the knowledge of where we're going.

8:15 – How may we make better decisions in life?

Making better decisions requires following the example of Christ and applying God's perspective there. In John 8:15 Jesus rebuked religious leaders who challenged His testimony by saying they made judgments *"by human standards."* Judging by human standards is totally inadequate for spiritual matters because it neglects God's perspective. The problem is that all human issues have a spiritual component to them. So if we are not making judgments considering God's perspective, we are making flawed judgments. To take God's perspective about a matter, it is necessary to know Him. Jesus came so that we may know God. The more we follow Christ, the better our decisions will be. We will get to know the Lord better when we study His Word looking for applications.

8:24 – What is the problem with the belief that there are multiple ways to heaven?

Following Jesus isn't just one of many valid paths to heaven, it is the only way. In John 8:24 Jesus said, *"if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins"* (NIV). Jesus claimed to be the Christ, the only anointed Son of God who came to make the only way for people to have eternal life. Dismissing this as being too exclusive to be from God is a deadly mistake. The Creator who established the laws of the universe will give no credence to human paths of salvation. So when an associate's comment reveals a belief in the multiple-paths deception, be ready to point out what God's Word has to say about this. They may be eternally grateful to you.

8:13-27 – Why should we trust Jesus in all aspects of our lives?

If we trust in Jesus to be our Savior for eternal life we should also trust Him in the here and now for all aspects of our daily lives. In John 8:13-27 those who did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah questioned Him searching for a flaw in His testimony about Himself. These questioners were convinced they understood God's plan for the Messiah and Jesus did not fit their expectations. We do the same thing when we neglect getting Jesus involved in our life. This is essentially a belief problem. If Jesus really is the Almighty Creator as He claims to be in Scripture, He cares about His creation and has power over it. He wants us to involve Him in our life by praying about our challenges and applying His principles so that we may experience a relationship with Him. So try prayer today!

8:13-30 – Why should we not give up on witnessing to people who seem unlikely to follow Jesus?

All of us have associates that seem like unlikely Christians. That shouldn't deter us from being a witness for Jesus. It is often easy for Christians to dismiss certain people or groups of people as being unlikely to follow Jesus. But God specializes in plucking out believers from the most improbable sources. John 8:13-30 gives the account of Jesus responding to the challenges of skeptics. Despite the opposition to His witness about who He was, *"many put their faith in him"* (John 8:30, NIV). We really can not see the work God is doing on the inside of our associates. God is using the references we make to spiritual matters during the normal course of our workplace conversations despite

appearances. Remember, God arranged for us to be where we live to serve His eternal purposes.

8:12-30 – How may we overcome our fear of witnessing to unbelievers?

We may overcome a fear of speaking about Jesus to our associates by learning a lesson of love from the Master. In John 8:12-30 Jesus boldly proclaimed Himself to be the Messiah the Jews sought. His bluntness is a rebuke to those who will not speak of Him for fear of offending someone. Instead, we should love our associates enough to risk losing their approval. Jesus certainly loved even those seeking to kill Him enough to honor them with the truth. Jesus told people what they needed to hear knowing they did not want to hear it. If we wait to tell someone about Jesus until we know they are ready to respond, we may never speak of Him at all. We shouldn't let caution keep us from sharing Christ with associates who may surprise us in their receptiveness.

8:31 – Who are the real disciples of Jesus?

True followers of Christ obey Him even. There is a cost to following Jesus that many who appear to be committed to Him fail to pay when the going gets tuff. But difficulties in life are tests that reveal the true followers of Christ from those harboring unbelief. Jesus said in John 8:31, *“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples”* (NIV). The workplace is full of difficulties that separate genuine followers of Christ from those who only say they do. So if we know that God has really given us new life in Christ, we should make sure we live up to that blessing by continuing to obey the Lord in all situations, especially. And, as a by-product, our faith will grow as we persevere.

8:31-32 – How does knowing the truth about Jesus make us free?

Jesus said in John 8:31-32, *“If... you are really my disciples... then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”* (NIV). The truth is God's revelation to mankind. Jesus personifies the truth of God which is foundational to all truth. Knowing the truth means accepting it, obeying it, and regarding it above all earthly opinion. Knowing the truth of God gives us freedom from the greatest consequence of sin, spiritual death which is separation from God for eternity. Knowing the truth of God frees us to do His will thus fulfilling His purpose in our life. We may apply the truth about Jesus today by recognizing Him as our ultimate boss.

8:36 – How does not following Jesus keep people in bondage?

The more we seek to know Jesus, the freer we will be. John 8:36 says, *“if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed”* (NIV). Trusting in Jesus, the Son of God is the only way to be free from the greatest consequence of sin, spiritual death. An ongoing relationship with the Lord provides daily

deliverance as well. If we don't have a relationship with Jesus, we don't have any option but to suffer the consequences of our self-focus. Without Christ, everything we do is motivated by selfishness. That is bondage. But by allowing Jesus to be an integral part of our life, it is possible to act selflessly for God's glory. So we should stop living just for ourselves and start living for Jesus!

8:43 – How may we be able to hear what God is saying to us?

Being able to put the Bible into practice requires the capacity to hear God. Before we can apply the Bible we must first understand it. Jesus said in John 8:43, *“Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say”* (NIV). Hearing God requires receptiveness to the Holy Spirit. The human spirit is naturally dead to God. But when we begin trusting in Jesus, the Lord breaths life into our spirit. If our spirit has been born from above, we have the capacity to hear the Lord by understanding His Word because, as 1 Corinthians 2:14 explains, spiritual discernment is necessary. The more we hear and understand the Lord, the more we will be compelled to apply what we know.

8:47 – How may we know the will of God?

Those who truly belong to God will take time to hear what God has to say to them even. Jesus said in John 8:47, *“he who belongs to God hears what God says”* (NIV). God speaks to us through circumstances, people, thoughts and the Bible. Certainly the Bible is the common denominator and thus the primary source for knowing what the Lord has said to us because God can not contradict Himself. In order to hear what God says, we must be receptive to Him which comes as part of being in an active relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. So getting in a mindset for hearing the Lord requires the disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fellowship with other Christians, and applying what God has revealed. So make these disciplines a priority today!

8:58 – Why can there be no indecisiveness regarding who Jesus really is?

People who are lukewarm to Christ will benefit from knowing that there can be no fence-sitting with Jesus. In John 8:58 Jesus proclaimed His divinity by saying He existed before Abraham was born. Jesus also applied God's holy name, *“I Am”* to Himself. No other religious figure in all of history has represented himself to be the Creator-God. Either Jesus was God or He was insane. His claim to deity demands a response that can not be ignored. The Jewish religious leaders responded to Jesus by trying to stone Him for blasphemy because He claimed equality with God. But Jesus is God. He proved this by His resurrection which is the best documented historical event in antiquity. Helping our associates see who Jesus really is will enable those who accept the truth to be our friends for eternity.