

Series: Life to the Full; Sermon: **The Truth Will Set You Free**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **April 8, 2018**

Bible text explored: John 8:31–59

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

³⁹They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, ⁴⁰but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. ⁴¹You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” ⁴²Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. ⁴³Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. ⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

⁴⁸The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” ⁴⁹Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” ⁵²The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ ⁵³Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” ⁵⁴Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” ⁵⁹So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Truth, Pastor Moody noted, has increasingly become a “flexible friend,” with many claiming their own truth instead of adhering to *the* truth. Why does seeking freedom to construct our lives in any way we want not work?

How does this apply . . .

- . . . to the culturally correct view of gender?
- . . . to the view that all absolute claims should not be allowed?

2. Why (vv. 31-33) could a people subject to Roman overlords claim they were not enslaved?
Do we tend to feel entitled because of our heritage in “Christian America” or in the community to which we belong?
3. How (v. 34) did Jesus define spiritual slavery?
Do we try to convince ourselves that God wants us to be happy?
Have we accepted that God’s will is directed toward our holiness, and that we are unable to break free from sin in our own strength?
4. What shock treatment (v. 44) did Jesus use with his complacent hearers?
What (v. 47) made his charge valid?
Does this explain the power of Billy Graham’s frequent repetition of the phrase, “the Bible says”?
5. Why (v. 36) are the following part of being truly set free?
 - a) responding (v. 42) to the one whom God sent
 - b) accepting his words (v. 51) and putting them into practice
 - c) being released (v. 53) from the fear of death
6. What (v. 56) was Jesus’ “day” that Abraham anticipated with joy?
(See *Gen. 22:17-18*.)
7. What does Jesus’ use of “I AM” (v. 58) say about his relation to time, and to the Father?
8. What does the crowd’s response to Jesus’ claim (v. 59) tell you about what had happened to their half-way belief? (See *Lev. 24:16*.)