

# Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

January 27, 2021

## John 8: 31 - 36

**31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? 34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. 35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

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Pastor Tom read this passage and then began a verse by verse analysis.

### Verse 31

*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

\*To put this verse in context, we remember that Jesus is speaking to Jews who have believed in Him. But tonight we will see the distinction between believers and disciples. To believe is good but discipleship is dedication. We need to be both of these, believers and disciples.

\*Note that Jesus began this thought with the word IF. It's conditional. Some who say they are believers, yet they will not become disciples.

### James 2:19

*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

\*Believing in God is good but that's NOT a relationship with Him. Even some of the angels rebelled and followed Satan out of Heaven and they recognized and believed in Jesus.

\*The majority of the U.S. say they believe they are Christians. But the majority of the U.S. certainly are not disciples.

\*What Jesus is saying here is that the key to being a disciple is being in the Word. It's a continuation, a process. But you have to begin the process by being in a relationship with Jesus in your heart. If you are truly committed

to Jesus and desire Him to be your Lord, then you must continue the process by continuing in the Word.

\*Just reading the Word or going to church does not make you a disciple. But continuing until you are acting out the Word in our lives makes you a disciple.

\*Remember what God did for the Jews: He gave them a lot of rules in the Old Testament that were rather tough. But they had to continue doing what God told them to in the rules.

### **Verse 32**

*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

\*Being disciples = knowing the Truth

\*In the secular world it is very difficult to know who speaks the truth which then creates division as we know it right now.

\*But Jesus defines the Truth: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life."

\*There are some churches that even try to take the word of God and change it so that it ceases to be the Truth anymore! We must be cautious in who we listen to and what they are saying.

\* In the Teen Sunday School class the discussion was about being called to be different. This led to the concept of the truth is truth and Jesus says I will make you free....from what? Read on...

### **Romans 6:14**

*For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

\*We are free from the bondage of sin.

### **Verse 33**

*They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

\*Remember - Jesus was talking to the Jews who believed, but they still didn't get it. They thought that their lineage from Abraham would get them through. They believed but did not desire to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

\*Many of us were raised in good families who went to church and even believed in God. But if the desire to be a disciple of Jesus is not there, then we have missed the whole point

### **Verse 34**

*Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

\*When you have committed sins that leads you to be sin's servant. Like an addiction. You know something is out of God's Will and you still do it, you will be addicted to it and enslaved by it.

### **2 Peter 2: 19 - 22**

*19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. 20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.*

\*The latter end for those who believed but went back to their old ways is worse than the beginning of their faith.

Pastor Tom and Pastor Jon have discussed this passage numerous times.

\*Belief -vs- Discipleship:

\*Belief does not necessarily mean salvation. You can believe in God/Jesus but not be saved (asking Jesus into your heart and repenting from your sins)

\*Any kind of knowledge requires some degree of responsibility.

Pastor Tom explained that when he learned how to shift gears in a big tractor trailer, it was his responsibility to learn that in order to do his job. He and Pastor Jon were called to preach the Word. They studied for that 'job' and took that responsibility seriously to preach the Word.

\*Once you have heard the Word of God and have knowledge of it then it is your responsibility to do something with it. For example, during an altar

call, you know what you must do but you don't make that commitment...this is worse than if you never heard it!

\*If you constantly refuse God's invitation/call, it will lead to a hardened heart.

### **Verse 35**

*And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.*

\*We are here on earth for a limited time. We are given an opportunity for salvation but one day the door will close for good with no more chances to be saved.

### **Genesis 7: 15 - 16**

*15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. 16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in.*

\*Once your time on earth is done, that's it, it's over! We must make our decision for Jesus Christ during our limited time.

Jesus is the everlasting (abides forever) and we are in His Ark if we are to be saved.

### **Philippians 1:6**

*Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

\*We can be confident, not wishy-washy, whether Jesus comes soon or we meet Him later.

### **Verse 36**

*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

\*This is a Jesus Thing: Your freedom from sin does not come from you...it comes from Jesus!

## **Romans 8:2**

*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

\*This is the gift - that the Law of Jesus made us free.

## **Romans 6:23**

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

\*This is the Law of Sin - that you pay with your eternal life if you sin.

\*The Law of Jesus cancelled out the Law of Sin. We experience physical death but not spiritual death. And God's Law cannot be broken.

\*Remember the difference between believing and being a disciple.

Remember the difference between having Jesus as Savior and having Him as you Lord.

## **Galatians 5:1**

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

\*Stand fast means you don't move. Don't move away from the liberty (freedom) that Christ bought for you with His Life.

\*Don't get caught up again in the burden of sin.

\*Paul is warning us quite strongly here. Check everything with Scripture.

\*Just as we have to do this with our computers/technology so we must check everything in our lives.

When the lines were opened up, Pastor Jon shared this verse:

**Hebrews 6:4 - 6**

*4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*

\*This is just one powerful verse in the whole powerful chapter. It compliments passage in 2 Peter.

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A rousing rendition of 'Happy Birthday' was sung to Marlin.

Good night to all!