

THE TRUTH AND THE FREEDOM EFFECT

January 7, 2018 John 8:31-37 by Bob Branch
Finding Jesus, Finding Life, part 27

BIG IDEA: Jesus calls us into a master-follower relationship with him, which yields successively deeper levels of freedom as we invest in it.

Believing in Jesus establishes a relationship with him is the way in. Abiding in him and his Word as his followers is the way on.

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³ They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. **John 8:31-37**

Sin is *hamartia*

- **Tragic flaw**, can’t be overcome.
- **Missing the mark, falling short.**
“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” **Romans 3:23** NLT
- **Rebellion** at our core “**original sin**”.
“Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.” **Romans 3:9**
- **Weakness of our flesh** (Col. 2:13; Rom. 7:5)
- **Sin Personified** “you were slaves to sin” **Romans 6:20**

³¹ “If you abide in my word, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

1. To abide means to **LIVE IN IT**.
2. A disciple is a **LEARNER** and **COMMITTED FOLLOWER**.
3. Jesus’ Truth means **HOW GOD SEES THINGS** and wants us to respond to it.
4. Jesus invites us to know his Truth **BY EXPERIENCE**.
5. Jesus invites us into freedom from the **ENTANGLEMENTS**, **LIES** and bondage of sin and its grip on this world.