

INTRO

- If you had the freedom to try another career what would it be?

READ

John 8:12, 31-36

REFLECT & RESPOND

In this conversation, Jesus both challenges and fulfills our modern desire for Truth & Freedom.

TRUTH

Jesus' words, "The truth will set you free" are popular and used today in presidential speeches, movies, university mottos and parents desperate to get their kids to confess! But what did Jesus mean by this phrase? What truth exactly is he referring to?

In the context of the conversation, Jesus means the truth about who he is—his claim as being equal to God and therefore, his authority and power as the Light of the world.

Today when we talk about truth, it's hard to pinpoint what is being meant by truth. Is it your truth? My truth? Their truth? Can we have any confidence in objective truth?

FREEDOM

Like truth, we have modern conceptions of what freedom means that probably isn't what Jesus meant.

Qu: what are modern ways of describing freedom? Do they actually fit reality? Discuss.

True freedom isn't so much being free *from* all constraints or authority, but rather finding the right constraints that fit with our nature and reality.

In essence, Jesus claims that our ultimate bondage stems from our rebellion against and independence from the God who created us. We

need freedom from ourselves and therefore need to look outside of ourselves to be free.

Finding and experiencing true freedom then, means following Jesus and abiding in relationship with Him.

Qu: Can you share an example in your own life where the truth, perhaps hard at first, led to freedom?

INVITATION TO APPRENTICE

"Whoever follows me... if you abide..."

Jesus says we can know truth, freedom and have the light that leads to life *only if* we choose to follow him and become his disciples. To be a disciple is to be with, become like and eventually do what your Teacher does.

There is a belief in Jesus—a cognitive acceptance of who he is and his teachings—that doesn't lead to an experiential trust and abiding in Jesus (compare Jn 8:30 & 8:59).

Qu: In the last 2yrs, we've become well aware of the "threat of Covid," which has led to us dramatically altering our lifestyles. Take a moment and discuss the "threat of non-discipleship" — a Christianity that's not serious about being and making disciples.

Qu: What are ways we can help one another not become complacent in this?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for renewed resolve to be an apprentice of Jesus
- Pray for breakthroughs where we desire to experience freedom in our lives