

Echo Summer Series: Rediscover

Echo Church | Week 33 | August 17, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr. |

“Rediscover: Your Freedom” | John 8:30–51 (NKJV)

John 8:30-38

30 As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

33 They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free’?”

34 Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

37 “I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.

38 I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.”

Introduction

Have you ever felt like you were free, but something was still holding you back? Like you’re walking through life, but there’s an invisible weight keeping you from running at full speed? Maybe it’s fear, doubt, or even a mindset you’ve carried for years.

Here’s the truth: *freedom isn’t just about what you’re free from—it’s about what you’re free for. Freedom isn’t just the absence of chains; it’s the presence of purpose.*

Freedom is the ability to live fully in alignment with God’s truth, unhindered by the lies, limitations, and labels that keep you bound.

So, here’s the question: Are you truly free? Or are you living in a prison with the door wide open?

Verse Breakdown:

John 8:30–32 – The Truth That Sets You Free

Verse 30: "***As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.***"

Context: Jesus is speaking to a mixed audience of believers and skeptics. His words are cutting through cultural and religious barriers, drawing people to faith.

Key Insight: Belief is the starting point of freedom, but it's not the finish line. Faith must lead to discipleship.

Cross-Reference: Romans 10:17 – "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

The word of God activates hearing...thus activating faith.

Verse 31: "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."

Context: Jesus emphasizes the importance of abiding—remaining, dwelling, and living—in His teachings. This was a challenge to the Jewish audience, who prided themselves on their heritage rather than their obedience.

Key Insight: Freedom is found in consistency, not convenience. Abiding requires commitment.

Verse 32: "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Context: The "truth" Jesus refers to is not just intellectual knowledge but experiential knowledge of Him as the Messiah.

Key Insight: Freedom is not the absence of restrictions but the presence of the right ones—those rooted in God's truth.

John 8:33–36 – Freedom Beyond Heritage

Verse 33: "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone."

Context: The Jewish leaders claim freedom based on their lineage, ignoring their history of slavery in Egypt, Babylon, and under Roman rule.

Key Insight: *Denial of bondage is the greatest barrier to freedom. You can't be free from what you refuse to acknowledge.*

Verse 34: "Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."

Context: Jesus shifts the conversation from physical bondage to spiritual bondage. Sin enslaves, and only He can break the chains.

Key Insight: *Sin is not just an action; it's a condition. Freedom begins with recognizing the chains.*

Verse 36: "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

Context: Jesus declares Himself as the ultimate liberator, offering a freedom that no earthly power can provide.

Key Insight: *True freedom is not self-made; it's God-given.*

John 8:37–47 – The Battle for Identity

Verse 37: "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me."

Context: Jesus acknowledges their physical lineage but challenges their spiritual alignment. They claim Abraham but reject the God of Abraham.

Key Insight: *Your identity is not just about where you come from but who you align with.*

Verse 44: "You are of your father the devil."

Context: Jesus confronts their hypocrisy and exposes their true allegiance. Their actions reveal their spiritual father.

Key Insight: Freedom requires a change in spiritual paternity. *Who you follow determines where you're going.*

John 8:48–51 – Freedom in Eternal Life

Verse 51: "If anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

Context: Jesus offers eternal freedom, not just temporary relief. This promise is for those who keep His word.

Key Insight: *Freedom is not just for this life; it's for eternity.*

Four Points

1. Freedom Starts with Truth, Not Tradition

Challenge: Are you clinging to cultural or religious traditions instead of God's truth?

Conviction: Freedom requires you to confront the lies you've believed.

Courage: Embrace the truth, even when it's uncomfortable.

Insight: True freedom begins with knowing and living in God's truth, not relying on cultural or religious traditions. The Jewish leaders in John 8 clung to their heritage as Abraham's descendants, but Jesus reminded them that freedom isn't about where you come from—it's about what you believe and live out.

Key Scripture: John 8:31–32 – "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Supporting Scripture: Colossians 2:8 – "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."

"Tradition can inform you, but only truth can transform you. Freedom starts where truth begins."

2. You Can't Be Free Without Acknowledging Your Chains

Challenge: What sin or mindset is keeping you in bondage?

Conviction: Denial delays deliverance.

Courage: Confess your chains and trust God to break them.

Insight: Denial is the greatest barrier to freedom. The Jewish leaders in John 8 denied their bondage, claiming they had never been enslaved, even though their history and current spiritual condition told a different story. Freedom begins with recognizing the chains you've normalized and bringing them to Jesus.

Key Scripture: John 8:34 – "Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."

Supporting Scripture: 1 John 1:8–9 – "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

"You can't break free from what you refuse to confront. Acknowledging your chains is the first step to walking in freedom."

3. Freedom Is Found in Abiding, Not Visiting

Challenge: Are you a part-time follower of Jesus?

Conviction: Freedom requires consistency in God's Word.

Courage: Commit to abiding in His truth daily.

Insight: Freedom isn't a one-time event; it's a daily decision to abide in God's Word. Jesus made it clear that abiding—remaining, dwelling, and living in His truth—is what makes us true disciples and keeps us free. Visiting God's Word occasionally won't sustain the freedom He offers.

People who say I'm just living my truth, is bound. People who tell you to live your truth, is speaking from a bound state. You can't free yourself, freedom is found in the word. So when you live the word you live the truth.

Key Scripture: John 8:31 – "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."

Supporting Scripture: John 15:4 – "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

"Freedom isn't found in what you visit occasionally; it's found in what you abide in consistently. Stay connected to the source of your freedom."

4. Freedom Is a Gift, Not an Achievement

Challenge: Are you trying to earn your freedom through good works?

Conviction: True freedom is only found in Christ.

Courage: Surrender your efforts and receive His grace.

Insight: True freedom isn't something you can earn through effort or good works; it's a gift that only Jesus can give. The Jewish leaders in John 8 thought their heritage and religious practices made them free, but Jesus reminded them that freedom comes from the Son, not from self.

Key Scripture: John 8:36 – "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

Supporting Scripture: Ephesians 2:8–9 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

"Freedom isn't self-made; it's God-given. Stop striving and start surrendering to the One who sets you free."

Additional Quotes

"Freedom isn't the absence of chains; it's the presence of Christ."

"You can't walk in freedom while holding hands with bondage."

"The truth doesn't just set you free; it keeps you free when you abide in it."

Conclusion

Freedom isn't just about what you're free *from*—it's about what you're free *for*. Jesus didn't set you free so you could live in mediocrity; He set you free so you could live in purpose, power, and peace.

So, here's the challenge: *Don't settle for partial freedom. Don't live in a prison with the door wide open. Rediscover the truth, acknowledge the chains, abide in His Word, and receive the gift of freedom that only Jesus can give.*

Final Motivational Thought: *"Freedom isn't a destination; it's a decision. Every day, you have the choice to live free or live bound. Choose freedom. Choose Christ."*