

Lighthouse Bible Church

August 11th, 2013

John 8: 28 – 36 *Scripture reading: Romans 6: 15 - 23*

‘Slave or Free, which are you?’ Part #1

Stand – Read – Pray

Two weeks ago we looked at the dialog between Christ and the Pharisees, His enemies who want to kill Him or see Him dead. Jesus told them that He is going away and where He goes they could not come.

Jesus was going back to His Father in heaven and the way He would go would be the way of pain and torture and crucifixion and death. Then, after 3 days, He would rise from the dead and later ascend to His Father in heaven.

Jesus told the Pharisees that they **cannot come** to where He was going because they did not believe in Him and because when they died, they would die in their sins. And when someone dies in their unforgiven sins they cannot enter the kingdom of heaven but will spend an eternity apart from God forever in hell.

Well, the Pharisees, you remember, in essence told Jesus that He was going to hell because He was going to a place that they could not go and in their own self-righteous thinking, they thought they were going to heaven because of their good works and their religion.

So Jesus straightens them out by telling them that they are the ones who are from beneath and will die in their sins and spend forever in the place of eternal pain and torment because they choose to reject Jesus and not believe who He says He is and has revealed Himself to be.

Jesus ended that part of the conversation with them by telling them that **if you do not believe that I AM** then you will die in your sins. And remember we looked

briefly at that incredible statement 'I AM', showing that Jesus was in essence telling them that He is the God of the Old Testament, He is God in human form.

Jesus finished by telling them that everything that He has been saying is the truth because He speaks only those things He hears from His Father in heaven. And they, in their ignorant unbelief, don't know that Jesus has been talking about God the Father and they can't know because of their hard hearted unbelief and because spiritual truth is spiritually discerned as **1st Corinthians 2: 14** says.

So Jesus begins in Verse 28 to tell them how they will know for sure who He is and that only He can set them free from their bondage of sin. Look at Verse 28.

Verse 28: Then Jesus said to them 'when you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He* and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

Jesus says 'you may be ignorant and not understanding now, but there is coming a time when you will know the truth about Me'. Everyone, someday, will know the truth about Jesus, either in life or in death, they will know for sure who He is.

Jesus says you will know who I am **when you lift up the Son of Man**. What does He mean 'lifted up'. He is talking about His soon coming crucifixion and He uses the term 'lifted up'.

We saw that back in **John 3: 14 – 15** where it said **and as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish.**

In **John 12: 32 – 34:** **if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself, this signifying by what death He would die.**

It is interesting that Jesus says **when YOU** lift up the Son of Man. It would be at the hands of the scribes and Pharisees and Jewish religious leaders that Jesus would eventually be crucified and killed. And in that killing, then they will know that I am who I claim to be and that I speak truthfully about My Father.

Again, Jesus uses the phrase ... 'then you will know that I AM' the He is in italics. He is saying 'after My crucifixion you will know that I AM Yahweh God, God in human form.

How will they know and how will all people know who Jesus is after His crucifixion and death. Well, like I said earlier, they will know who He is either in life or in death.

Think about it this way. He is talking to the religious leaders in Jerusalem specifically and the Jews generally. What happened almost 40 years after Christ was lifted up, after He was crucified? The city of Jerusalem was attacked by Titus Vespasian and in that attack over 1 million one-hundred thousand Jews were killed.

Many of those Jews and many of those Jewish religious leaders died and they died in their sins and they went beneath, they went to hell. And at that very moment they realized that Jesus was exactly who He claimed to be. The only problem is, is it was too late.

Like I have said before, 150,000 people die every day. 625 people die every hour. In the time we spend here this morning over 600 people will have died and if they die in their sins then they will go to hell and they too will then realize that Jesus was exactly who He claimed to be and like the others, it will be too late. It reminds me of **Luke 16: 19 – 31** where the rich man was sent to hell and finally realizes that his religion and his riches and his own goodness couldn't save him so he pleads to have Lazarus, who died also, to go back and tell his 5 brothers. But it was too late.

One of the things I often share at funerals is at the end I will say ‘knowing what so and so knows right now, and if they could say one thing to you it would be to put your faith and trust in Jesus today, because none of you knows when the next funeral will be and by then it is too late, if it’s yours.’

Then, there are those who not only in death will know Him but those in life, who after Jesus’ crucifixion, will know exactly who He is. How will that happen? What happened to many after the crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ? They believed, right.

What about the thief on the cross in **Luke 23: 43**. He said **Lord remember me when You come into your kingdom and Jesus said to Him ‘today you will be with Me (where) in paradise, in heaven’**.

What did the Roman soldier say as Christ died on the cross in **Mark 15: 39** he said **truly this Man was the Son of God**. And the countless number of people who put their faith and trust in Jesus as the resurrected Son of God when the tomb was empty. And the 3000 and countless more who believed who Christ was after the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost... and on and on.

You see, everyone will know who Christ is, either in life or in death. If it is in death, there is absolute hopelessness because as **Hebrews 9: 27** **it is appointed unto man once to die then after that (what) the judgment**. And if it is in life, then there is absolute joy and eternal life because as a believer **to be absent from the body is to be (what) present with the Lord** as **2nd Corinthians 5: 8** says.

Then Jesus says at the end of Verse 28 and in Verse 29.

Verses 28b – 29: ...then you will know that I am **and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone for I always do those things that please Him.**

After My being lifted up, you will know that I am the Son of God, God in human form, and **that I do nothing of Myself but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.** Jesus, again, equates Himself with God as His Father and that is the very thing that these Jewish leaders hated Him for and wanted to kill Him because of.

Jesus and the Father are one because the Father is **always with Him** and **never leaves Him alone**, like most others have and will and Jesus always does God's perfect will because He always does those things **that please the Father.** Again, as we've seen before, the beautiful unity and oneness between the Father and Son. Look what the response of the people in Verse 30.

Verse 30: as He spoke these words, many believed in Him.

As we have seen before, this statement does not mean that they became born again believers. It simply means that they began to believe what Jesus was saying about Himself and what He was teaching. It is beginning to make sense to them; they are making an intellectual ascent but their belief is not salvation, as we shall see. They are people who believe yet they do not believe.

Belief is an important part of salvation but it is never enough right. What did James say in **James 2: 19 you believe that there is one God, you do well, even the demons believe and tremble.**

That belief that exercises faith that causes one to repent and fully trust in Christ, all a work of God, is saving belief and faith that saves. These who believe are not there yet and that is a dangerous place to be; believing in Jesus and doing nothing about it.

Look how Jesus describes these same so called believers in Verse 34. They are 'slaves to sin'. In Verse 42 as not really even loving Jesus. In Verse 38, 41 & 44 the Devil is their father. And finally in Verses 45 – 46 they really never even believed in Him for saving faith. So believing is never enough in and of itself.

So Jesus now wants to address those who say they ‘believe in Him’. Look at Verse 31.

Verse 31: then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘if you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed’.

Jesus says it is not just enough to believe, that is the starting place, but in order to be His **disciple**, the word is *mathetes*, which means to be His learner, His pupil, and thus His follower, you must **abide in His word**. He says ‘**you are**’(*present tense*) My disciples if you abide in My word. He is not saying this is how you become My disciple, He says this is evidence that you are My disciple indeed.

That word **abide, meno**, means to stay, to continue, to dwell, to remain or to endure. Jesus says if you stay in My word, if you remain in My word, if you endure in My word, then it is evidenced that you are truly a disciple of mine.

That is always the mark of a follower of Jesus Christ, isn’t it? One who faithfully follows the word of God, one who obeys the word of God, no matter what. They are the ones who persevere in the faith and in the word of Christ no matter what situations or circumstances or tests or trials are brought into their life.

They are ones marked by obedience and perseverance to the word, those are true disciples of Christ. **2nd John 1: 9: whoever does not abide (same word *meno*) in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.**

This is such a crucial evaluation of someone who claims to be a born again believer. Mike has been sharing this in Sunday school when it comes to the tests for true discipleship and true conversion.

Remember what Jesus said to the people in the crowd when they told Him that His mother and brothers were there to see Him. He said in **Matthew 12: 49 – 50** **He stretched out His hand towards His disciples and said here are My**

mother and My brothers. For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.

Later in the book of John Jesus will say in **John 14: 15** **If you love Me** (what) **keep My commandments...** Look at **Verses 21, 23 – 34.** Look at **John 15: 10, 14.**

Look at **1st John 2: 4 – 6** and **1st John 3: 24** and **1st John 5: 3**

Jesus makes it very clear back in John 8: 31 that only those whose lives are evidenced by continuing in the word of God that leads to an obedient life are those who give evidence of being true disciples of Christ. Not perfection, but consistency in continuing and obedience.

Listen, someone who claims to be a born again believer that doesn't continually abide in the Word of God, that does not love our Lord with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength, has to examine themselves to see if they are really in the faith.

For someone to say they are a Christian and then continue to live like the world is a contradiction. For someone to say they have accepted Christ as their Savior but not as Lord is unbiblical. When you become a born again believer you do so by submitting to the Lordship of Christ and it evidences itself in a life of perseverant obedience to our Lord and His Word.

Jesus says, 'then you are My disciples: **indeed**'. That word **indeed** is the word *aletheos* and it means surely, truly, of a truth or in truth. That is the evidence of a true disciple of Christ, one who abides in Christ and His Word. Then Jesus says the only way you can be My true, in truth, disciples is by knowing the truth, and that is where we are going to pick it up next time in Verse 32.

Closing Prayer self-examination

Lighthouse Bible Church
August 11th, 2013
John 8: 28 – 36
‘Slave or Free, which are you?’ Part #1

Introduction and Review:

Verses 28 – 29:

John 3: 14 – 15, John 12: 32 – 34
Luke 16: 19 – 31, Luke 23: 43, Mark 15: 39
Hebrews 9: 27, 2nd Corinthians 5: 8

Verse 30:

James 2: 19

Verse 31:

2nd John 9

Verse 32:

2nd Timothy 3: 1 – 5, *John 14: 6, 17, Acts 4: 12*
2nd Thessalonians 2:10, 13, Psalm 31: 5,
John 16: 13, 2nd Timothy 2: 15, John 17: 17
John 4: 23 – 24, 1st Peter 1: 22, 2nd John 4
Acts 16: 25, 1st Timothy 3: 15, 1st Timothy 6: 5
2nd Timothy 2: 18, 3: 7 – 8, 4: 4

Verse 33 – 36:

Romans 2: 28 – 29, 3: 10 – 18, 2nd Peter 2: 18-19
Romans 6: 6–20, Titus 3: 3 – 7, Matthew 8: 11-12
John 1: 12, 1st John 3: 2, John 14: 6

Lighthouse Bible Church
August 11th, 2013
John 8: 28 – 36
‘Slave or Free, which are you?’ Part #1

Introduction and Review:

Verses 28 – 29:

John 3: 14 – 15, John 12: 32 – 34
Luke 16: 19 – 31, Luke 23: 43, Mark 15: 39
Hebrews 9: 27, 2nd Corinthians 5: 8

Verse 30:

James 2: 19

Verse 31:

2nd John 9

Verse 32:

2nd Timothy 3: 1 – 5, *John 14: 6, 17, Acts 4: 12*
2nd Thessalonians 2:10, 13, Psalm 31: 5,
John 16: 13, 2nd Timothy 2: 15, John 17: 17
John 4: 23 – 24, 1st Peter 1: 22, 2nd John 4
Acts 16: 25, 1st Timothy 3: 15, 1st Timothy 6: 5
2nd Timothy 2: 18, 3: 7 – 8, 4: 4

Verse 33 – 36:

Romans 2: 28 – 29, 3: 10 – 18, 2nd Peter 2: 18-19
Romans 6: 6–20, Titus 3: 3 – 7, Matthew 8: 11-12
John 1: 12, 1st John 3: 2, John 14: 6