

**Verse 31**

There are people who believe in God and believe in Jesus but is merely on an intellectual level as it never gets to the heart. To believe only in mind or intellectually makes you similar to demons in believing as they believe God is one (James 2:19). True belief is in the mind and in the heart. True belief gets to the heart because the heart has been changed and regenerated to love God and the things of God. The heart of stone know is has been sovereignly, unilaterally, and monergistically removed and been replaced with a heart that is beating with affection and love for God. We love because He first loved (1 John 4:19) us which speaks of His electing love He had upon His elect before the world was. The result of our love for Him is obedience to His commandment (John 14:15). As the golden chain states that those whom God foreknew and loved with a salvific love in election He predestined them to be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29). The end of the golden chain is glorification which speaks to the perseverance of the saints. The true believer will hold to the teaching and commands of God until glorification. In this verse we have Jesus confirming the doctrine of perseverance of the saints.

- Luke 8:13 Those on the rocky *soil* are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no *firm* root; <sup>[a]</sup>they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.
- 1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that <sup>[a]</sup>it would be shown that they all are not of us.
- John 6:66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

**Verse 32**

Those who believe in Jesus who is truth (John 14:6) and His Word which is truth (John 17:17) will be set free from slavery to sin and the devil.

**Verse 33**

The Jews are offended by the words of Jesus as He is talking about belief in Him and His teachings being able to set them free. They boast about their ethnicity as they claim they are descendants of Abraham and have never yet been enslaved to anyone, so they don't know why they need to be set free. Jesus is talking about being set free from spiritually from sin and not physically. This is another example of people thinking He is talking physically, but He is rather talking in spiritual terms (i.e., John 6- eating His flesh and drinking His blood).

**Verse 34**

Jesus replies with "Truly, Truly" which shows the importance of His following words. He states that everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. He is telling the Jews in this story which applies to all today, that before Christ sets us free, we are all enslaved to sin. These people did not understand that that they were enslaved so they couldn't understand the freedom He was offering them. We must understand the hopeless situation we are all in outside of Christ to truly understand the good news that is found in the gospel.

- Romans 6:1-19

**Bondage of the Will:** We as humans have free will, but our will is not neutral as we are enslaved to sin and the devil. We are born in a fallen state and our will is not toward the things of God, but rather toward sin and the devil. If every person was left to our own free will in our fallen unregenerate state no one would ever choose Christ. If God looked ahead in time and chose those whom He saw would choose Him (as those who deny the doctrine of election claim, this is called the prescient view), He would see no one ever choosing Him and no one would be in Heaven. As Christians we should praise God that He set us free from our will that was in bondage and slavery to sin and the devil and regenerated our souls to now run to the things of God.

- **2 Timothy 2:24-26** The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, <sup>25</sup> with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive <sup>[a]</sup> by him to do his will.
- **Romans 3:10-11** as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; <sup>11</sup> There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God;
- **Romans 8:6-8** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, <sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

### **Verse 35**

Jesus explains that a slave does not remain in the house forever, but a son remains in the house forever. Prior to our salvation we were slaves of sin, but through God's mercy and grace in salvation has adopted us as sons (**Romans 8:14-17**). We are in union of sonship with Jesus through our adoption as sons. The same love the Father had upon His only begotten Son, He has upon His adopted sons (**John 17:22,26**). Slaves of sin and the devil will not enter the kingdom and house of God, but we as slaves who have been set free by Christ will dwell with Him forever as we are co-heirs with Christ via our sonship.

### **Verse 36**

A slave does not set Him self free, but rather has to be set free. We as fallen creatures who are enslaved to the devil and by sin are only set free by the sovereign work of God upon us. We are dependent on Him. If you are a Christian and have been set free it was not because of you, but only because of Him. To God be the glory. We can look to God rescuing His people out of bondage in Egypt as they did not rescue themselves, but rather were dependent of God. To think that we can initiate ourselves being born again or set free is arrogant and asking the impossible.

### **Who is your Father? God or the Devil..... There are no other choices.**

#### **Verses 37-40**

In these verses of scripture Jesus will divide these people and by extension everyone that has ever lived, is currently living, or ever will live into two categories depending on who their father is: God or the devil. Every person has either God or the devil as their father. The Jews claim to follow God, but they hate and deny Jesus who is sent from God. Jesus is speaking the things that are from His Father and these people are doing the things they heard from their father (the devil). They claim that Abraham is their forefather, but they do not do as Abraham or believe as he did. Those who believe in the teaching of Jesus by faith can refer to Abraham as our father of faith.

- **Romans 9:6-8** But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel; <sup>7</sup> nor are they all children because they are Abraham's <sup>[d]</sup> descendants, but: "<sup>[e]</sup>through Isaac your <sup>[f]</sup> descendants will be named." <sup>8</sup> That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as <sup>[g]</sup> descendants.
- **Galatians 3:6-9** Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Therefore, <sup>[k]</sup> be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> The Scripture, foreseeing that God <sup>[l]</sup> would justify the <sup>[m]</sup> Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, *saying*, "All the nations will be blessed in you." <sup>9</sup> So then those who are of faith are blessed with <sup>[n]</sup> Abraham, the believer.

### **Verses 41-42**

Jesus tells them that are doing the deeds of their father (the devil), but they adamantly claim that God is their Father.

Jesus tells them that if God were their Father, they would love Him for He came from Him and was sent by Him. Many people claim to love God, but unless one loves Jesus, they do not love God. One must have true love for Jesus and who He truly is, to have the Father. Other religions will claim there are many ways to God, but Jesus clearly states that He is the only way to the Father (**John 14:6**), as He is the door for the sheep (**John 10:7**).

*Many people ask how they can know they are saved or numbered among the elect. Here Jesus gives us an answer. If we love the Biblical Jesus honestly and sincerely from our soul, then we love and have God. If we have any true affection and love for Jesus, we are saved as love for Christ does not come from an unregenerate heart. We are hostile to God, at war with God, hate the Light, and are at enmity with God in our unregenerate state. So, to have love for Christ is a sign that you are a Christian and God is your Father. We love because He loved us first (**1 John 4:19**) and this love began in our election before the foundation of the world.*

### **Verses 43-46**

We can compare this verse to what Jesus had taught in **John 6:36-65** as to why some believe, and some don't. The answer in John 6 and in these verses are the same: the elect believe, as they have been appointed to believe (**Acts 13:48**) by the sovereign mercy and grace of God. Jesus tells them that they do not understand, because they cannot hear His word. This speaks to the impossibility of any one to come to Christ outside of the sovereign hand of God. They are not His sheep and His sheep His voice and His effectual call. They are not of God, but of their father, the devil.

- **John 10:24-30** The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long <sup>[b]</sup>will You keep us in suspense? If You are <sup>[a]</sup>the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. <sup>26</sup>But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup>and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup><sup>[a]</sup>My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are <sup>[b]</sup>one."
- **John 18:37** Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."
- **Matthew 11:15** He who has ears to hear, <sup>[a]</sup>let him hear.

To have ears that hear the truths and the call of the shepherd is a gift of grace and mercy!

- They want to do the desires of their father which speaks to the bondage of the will and their enslavement to sin in their fallen state.
- There is a clear distinction between Jesus who is the life and truth and the devil who is death and lies. Who is your father?
- The devil is a liar and the father of lies. This goes back to the garden where he lied to Eve which brought death.
- Those who are of their father the devil does not know the truth as they are enslaved and do not believe the truth of God. Everyone reflects their father.
- Those whose Father is God is only because of mercy and grace as He has adopted us as sons to the glory of His grace.

## **Verse 47**

He who is of God hears the words of God and those who are not God's do not hear. The elect who are His sheep hear His voice, come to Him, believe, are saved, and continue with His teachings.

- **John 6:44-45** No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught of God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.
- **John 18:37** Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

We were once slaves to sin doing the will of the devil. We were running from God with our ears unable to hear, our eyes unable to see, and our hearts unable to love and believe the truths of God. Our father was the devil, and we were doing the desires of him. Until one day, God the Holy Spirit, sovereignly came to our dead stone hearts and by His power, brought us to life and gave us a new heart that beats with love and affection for God. It would be those whose hearts were changed and were born again that would receive another act of absolute mercy and grace as He would give us ears to hear. The elect of God are given ears to hear, in their regeneration, to which for the first time can hear their shepherd calling to them. His sheep hear His voice and they come, and He never loses one of them. As our ears are open to His effectual call and we believe, we are adopted as sons of God in union with the sonship of the only begotten Son of God and now call God "Abba Father!" We have gone from slaves of sin and the devil, who don't belong in His house, to sons who will be in His house forever. What an indescribable act of love, mercy, and compassion to have God remove the scales from our eyes, change our minds, bring our hearts to life to have affection for Him, and open our ears to hear Him! He who has ears, let him hear.