

John 8:30-47; "Reality Revealed" – September 27, 2026

I. Welcome & Review

A. Good morning! Ohayou gozaimasu! Welcome to Calvary Chapel Iwakuni. What a blessing it is to gather as a church family to praise and worship our Lord; not only through the songs we sing, but now through the study of His Word.

1. *Welcome any visitors and those streaming online.*

B. Before we continue any further in our service, let's go ahead and dismiss our elementary aged children to their Sunday School Classrooms.

1. And as the kids make their way out, will the rest of you open up your bibles and make your way to John chapter 8?

C. Last week we looked at a portion of Scripture in John chapter 8 where Jesus made another one of His "I AM" statements boldly declaring "I am the light of the world."

1. Throughout our study we noted how Jesus continually testified of truths that the Jews were completely missing out upon.

a. Jesus testified that He was the light of the world; God's presence with them, sent to lead and guide them.

b. He testified that unlike the Pharisees, His judgment was true and not according to the flesh.

c. He testified that He was one with the Father, that to know Him was to know the Father.

d. Jesus testified that if you do not believe He is the great I AM then you will die in your sins; eternally lost and separated from God

e. He testified that the words He spoke were from the Father and true.

f. And He testified that He always does those things which please the Father. Everything He was about, was about pleasing and honoring the Father and fulfilling the Father's will.

2. In our study we noted a building tension and frustration amongst the religious elite but also noted that some of the Jews there at the temple were starting to believe upon Jesus. They were hearing His words and all that He was testifying of and were beginning to believe some of the things He said.

D. Which is where our study today will pick up. Today, we'll look at verse 30 again in context of what continued there at the temple.

1. Our text will be John ch. 8 vs. 30 all the way down to vs. 47. And the title I've put together for our time this morning is "**Reality Revealed**".

2. Hopefully you are there in John chapter 8 by now. If so, I'd like to invite all who are able to rise to your feet in honor of God and His Holy Word.

3. I'm going to read through the entirety of our text from my Bible. I'll be reading from the NKJV of the Bible. If you are reading from a different Bible, just do your best to follow along in your Bible as I read from mine.

4. John continues his description of the events that took place the day after the Feast of Tabernacles concluded, there in Jerusalem upon the temple grounds, with the following in vs. 30... (R & P)

II. Intro;

A. In our text, Jesus is continuing to address not only the crowd gathered around Him, but also the religious leaders actively coming against Him.

B. Jesus is going to address them by presenting a series of exposing contrasts, revealing the reality of where they are vs. where they should be.

1. Jesus will address such matters as belief, sin, Abraham, and truth. And as we make our way through the text, my hope is to show how all of these fit together into the reality that Jesus was revealing before them.

C. As we study through the text and note the reality of where the Jews were at vs. where they should have been, the hope is that we will be able to make application to our own lives.

1. Realizing that the things Jesus wanted for the people back during the first century, is no different from what He wants from us today.

D. I've taken the liberty of breaking down our text into four different sections. The first of which comes from vs. 30-32 where Jesus contrasts "**Superficial Belief with Genuine Belief**." Take a look at vs. 30-32 again.

III. John 8:30-32; Superficial Belief vs. Genuine Belief

A. Last week we read vs. 30 in our study but I didn't really expound upon it because Jesus does so here.

1. In vs. 30 we are told that some of the people there listening to Jesus and the things He was testifying of began to believe upon Him.

2. We have to be careful that we don't immediately jump to the conclusion that these people had saving faith. We've already noted on several different occasions in John's gospel where some of the people were said to have believed upon Jesus.

3. In John 2 we were told about many who believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But [we're told] "Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man." (**Jn. 2:24-25**)

4. In John 6 after the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 many professed belief in Him, but then later, we came to find that they were only following Him for what they could get from Him; a free meal.

a. And when Jesus challenged them to eat His flesh and drink His blood, speaking figuratively of Himself as the bread from heaven and His blood that would be given for the remission of sins, many departed from Him because what He said was offensive to them and they walked with Him no more. (**Jn. 6:66**)

- b. Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him according to John 6:64. (**Jn. 6:64b**)
- 5. So here in our text we read of some of the people who began to express belief in some of the things that Jesus was saying, some of the things He was testifying of.
- B. But Jesus challenged them in verse 31, speaking to those who were beginning to believe upon Him saying, "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed."
 - 1. Jesus didn't want people to believe some of the things He was saying. He was calling people to follow after Him. To be a disciple is to be a learner, a student; someone who not only receives instruction but also puts that instruction into practice.
 - 2. This is what Jesus was seeking after. He wants disciples, not just believers. Jesus sent out His disciples in the great commission to go and make disciples, not to merely make believers or converts. He was seeking for people to not just believe a few facts about Him, but for them to take His teachings and apply them to their lives.
- C. In our text here, Jesus is basically calling these people to something greater than just mere intellectual agreement. It isn't just a matter of believing some of the things He said. True genuine belief is demonstrated through **abiding in His Word**.
 - 1. Abiding in His Word means continuing in it. Persevering in the teachings of Jesus Christ. That no matter what comes our way we will remain loyal to Him and His Word.
 - 2. Abiding in His Word is a lifestyle of continued obedience to Christ and His teachings. This is what Jesus is seeking after and calling these people to.
 - 3. And He is calling us to the same thing. Jesus isn't looking for a bunch of people who will look at a statement of faith and agree to all the things within it. He is looking for people who will not only believe upon His Word, but then put His Word into action; to apply it to their lives.
 - 4. To be "doers" of the Word and not just "hearers" deceiving ourselves as James puts it. (**Jas. 1:22**)
 - a. It is possible to deceive ourselves. To trick ourselves into thinking that we're "ok", that we're doing good, because we simply listen to God's Word or agree with God's Word.
 - b. Listening to God's Word and being a hearer is important, but it certainly isn't the only thing God wants of us. He wants us to be hearers and doers of His Word. That we would read His Word and study His Word, and then apply His Word and live out His Word.
- D. Jesus states in vs. 32 that if we would abide in His Word then we would know the truth and the truth shall make us free.

- 1. And the things we have to understand here is that the truth Jesus is speaking about is not something that is learned, but someone who is followed.
 - 2. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (**Jn. 14:6**)
 - 3. When Jesus says if we abide in His Word we will know truth, what He is saying is that we will know Him. For He is truth. As we read and study and abide in His word, we come to know Jesus more and more. For the Scriptures speak of Him.
 - 4. Jesus is the Word of God become flesh. And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (**Jn. 1:14**)
 - 5. And when we know the truth, when we know Jesus, it is He who makes us free. Jesus liberates us from the power and punishment of sin; freeing us from the bondage of sin.
- E. Which is what leads to our next set of contrasts in vs. 33-38 where Jesus contrasts "**Bondage to sin with Freedom from Sin**". Follow along in your Bible as I read from mine.
- IV. John 8:33-38; Bondage to Sin vs. Freedom from Sin
 - A. The Jews picked up upon what Jesus was stating when talking about the need to be made free. He was insinuating that they were not free to which they object stating, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free?'".
 - 1. Now here we see just how blind the people had become. They were so adamant about opposing Jesus and the thought that they needed to be made free, that they made claims that simply weren't even factual.
 - a. I mean, think about the history of the Jewish people. They were in bondage in Egypt for a couple hundred years. During the days of the Judges, they were in bondage to all sorts of different nations and people groups for various amounts of time. From the Moabites to the Canaanites, to the Midianites, and the Ammonites and the Philistines all of these people held the children of Israel in bondage at one time or another and some of them multiple times.
 - b. Then after the time of the Judges there was the Assyrian empire that came in and took captive the northern tribes of Israel. After that it was the Babylonians who took the southern tribes captive for 70 years.
 - c. Even up to the very present, they were being held under the thumb of the Roman Empire. The Jewish people spent hundreds of years in bondage, yet the Jews of the first century claimed they had never been in bondage.
 - 2. And this just goes to show how ridiculous people get when they are not willing to receive the truth.

- a. When you are unwilling to receive the truth and face the truth, you'll say and believe in nearly anything other than the truth.
 - b. Look around the world today. The world is in opposition to the truth. It has rejected Jesus and His Word, and it will believe in and claim practically anything other than the truth. It's madness out there.
- B. In verses 34-38 Jesus responds to their statement and answers their question.
1. They asked, "How can you say, 'You will be made free?'" to which Jesus responded in verse 38 rather concisely "I speak what I have seen with My Father".
 - a. They wanted to know how He could say certain things and Jesus' response was simply that He speaks what He has seen with His Father. Basically saying that His Words aren't necessarily His own, but that they come from the Father. What He says is in agreement and in accordance with what the Father and Him have seen and witnessed themselves.
 2. They claimed that they were Abraham's descendants.
 - a. Jesus said in vs. 37, "I know that you are Abraham's descendants."
 - b. He didn't deny this fact or try to argue with them. They were of the lineage of Abraham, of the seed of Abraham, direct descendants of Abraham.
 - c. However, though they were Abraham's descendants they did not behave like Abraham for they sought to kill Him.
 - d. And why did they seek to kill him? Jesus says it was because His Word had no place in them. And because they had no room in their hearts for Jesus and His Word, they were stuck in bondage.
 - e. For Jesus said if you abide in My Word you will know the truth and the truth will make you free. But because they had no room for Jesus and the truth He proclaimed they remained in bondage.
- C. In response to their claim of not being in bondage, Jesus boldly declared, "Most assuredly, I say to you [Verily, verily / Truly, truly / Amen, amen in the Greek] whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.
1. Now, we all commit sin. We all have a sinful nature. But the verb "commit" used here is written as a present active participle. It speaks of ongoing, continuous action. Meaning that what Jesus is describing here is not the occasional failure, but a habitual life of committing sin, He is describing someone who is continually living in sin.
 2. If you live in sin, then you are a slave to sin. We know and understand this truth firsthand. We all once were slaves to sin.
 - a. Romans 6 teaches us, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of

- sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." (Rom. 6:16-18)
3. Prior to Christ we were all slaves to sin. But God delivered us through the good news of the gospel and now we have been made free in Christ. We are free from sin, not free to sin. We have been set free from the bondage of sin and the punishment of sin which is death.
 4. God's Word penetrated our hearts, and we were convicted by the Holy Spirit, and we repented from our sins and put our faith in Jesus. As a result, we are no longer slaves to sin, but slaves of righteousness. Looking to serve Jesus in everything we say, do, and think.
 5. But these Jews in our text are still bound in their sin. They haven't heeded God's Word and therefore have not been made free by the truth found in and through Jesus Christ.
- D. And because they are still living in sin and have not submitted themselves to the truth, Jesus says their standing before the Lord hangs in the balance.
1. The Jews depended upon their status as descendants of Abraham; thinking that was enough to please God. But it wasn't enough. It didn't matter that they were of the seed of Abraham, God was looking for faith from them. Because they were slaves and not sons, their place in the house was not secure.
 - a. When Jesus speaks about a slave not abiding in the house forever that is what He is speaking about. Slaves in the ancient world had no permanent status. They could be sold, dismissed, transferred, cast out, or replaced. They had no inheritance rights to the household they were part of.
 - b. What Jesus is saying is that if you remain in sin, a slave to sin, you have **no permanent place in God's household**, in His Kingdom.
 - c. Slavery keeps you stuck in sin, but it does not keep you secure in God's Kingdom.
 2. Contrasted with that is the idea of the son. The son abides forever. The son has a permanent place in the house. Eventually, as heir, all of the household will be handed over to Him and He will rule over the house and the affairs within the house.
 - a. And whatever the son says or wants he gets. So, the key is the son. If you are in good with the son, then you are set.
 - b. That is why Jesus said, "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."
 - c. The Son has the ability **to make you free from your bonds** as a slave and can grant you access into the house.

3. And this is what happened in our lives. When we came to faith in Christ, we went from being slaves of sin, to sons of God and joint heirs with Christ in God's Kingdom.
 - a. Paul the apostle tells us in Galatians that we are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (**Gal. 3:26**)
 - b. Galatians 4 describes how we were in bondage under the elements of the world [sin]. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because we are sons, God has set forth the Spirit of His Son in our hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." (**Gal. 4:3-7**)
 - c. When we put our faith in Jesus we not only were slaves made free from the bondage of sin, we were then adopted as sons and daughters into His family and given a place within His household.
4. The Son is the One with permanent residency. And it is the Son who can make us free and grant us a presence alongside Him in the house.
5. These Jews think they are free, but they are slaves in bondage to sin. But Jesus is offering them a way out. A way to be set free from their bondage, set free from sin, and welcomed as part of God's family.
- E. And this brings us to our next section of text where Jesus picks up on this idea of being part of God's family as He contrasts the difference between being "**Descendant of Abraham and being Children of Abraham**". Take a look at verses 39-42 with me.
- V. John 8:39-42; Descendants of Abraham vs. Children of Abraham
 - A. You've probably heard of the old saying, "Like father, like Son". No matter how hard we try to not be like our parents, we often find ourselves walking in their footsteps and following after them; doing and saying some of the same things they said to us.
 1. Children often look like and act like their parents. The example they receive from mom and dad have an impact upon them.
 - B. The Jews claimed that Abraham was their father. But Jesus makes a clear distinction between the differences of being a descendant of Abraham and a child of Abraham.
 1. Children resemble their father; they look and act like their father, while descendants simply share the same DNA.
 2. Jesus acknowledged that they were descendants of Abraham but challenged the idea of them actually being children of Abraham.
 - C. Jesus responds to their claim by saying, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham."

1. And what are the works of Abraham? Well, first and foremost Abraham was a man of faith. He is referred to as the father of faith. In Romans 4 Paul the apostle describes how Abraham operated by faith.
 - a. He writes how "he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe..." (**Rom. 4:11a**)
2. In the book of Galatians Paul explicitly states, "Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham." (**Gal. 3:7**)
3. Abraham was a man of faith and so his children would be expected to be **people of faith as well**. People who believe God at His Word and put faith in His Word and live their lives according to God's Word.
4. That is what Abraham did. He trusted God and His Word to Him and lived in accordance with God's word by faith.
5. James writes how the scripture was fulfilled which says, 'Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' And he was called the friend of God." (**Jas. 2:23**)
6. Abraham was considered a friend of God. He welcomed God and the messengers God sent to Him. And yet here Jesus highlights how the Jews want to kill Him. Instead of being a friend of God, they want to kill God's one and only begotten Son whom He had sent to them.
- D. In the beginning of verse 41 Jesus states that they do the deeds of their father, implying that they had a different father than Abraham.
 1. And this struck a nerve with the people for they responded, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God".
 - a. They were offended by what Jesus said and so it would seem they are trying to respond with something offensive towards Jesus, perhaps alluding to the questions surrounding Jesus' lineage and who His father was, that perhaps Jesus had been born of fornication seeing as how Mary was found to be with child prior to Joseph and her becoming one as husband and wife.
 2. But Jesus pays no attention to their attempted slight. And simply states that if God was truly their father than they would love Him because He came from God and was sent by God.
 - a. **Love for Jesus** is the true test of whether or not you are a son or daughter in the faith. If you are a child of Abraham, and part of the family of God you will love God's Son, Jesus Christ.
 - b. 1 John 5:1 states, "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him." (**1 Jn. 5:1**)
 - i. If you love God, you will love His only begotten Son. You can't love one without loving the other. If you claim to love God, but hate the Son, you are only fooling yourself.

- c. The fact that they didn't love Jesus was proof that God was not their father.
 - d. So, if God was not their father, evidenced by the fact that they did not love Jesus. And Abraham is not their father evidenced by their lack of faith. Then who is their father?
- E. That is what Jesus addresses here at the end of our text. Let's read these final verses where Jesus contrasts "**Resisting Truth vs. Receiving Truth**".
- VI. John 8:43-47; Resisting Truth vs. Receiving Truth
- A. Here at the end of our text, Jesus asks a searching question about why the Jews do not understand His speech; why they don't understand what He is saying to them, why they are resisting the truth He is sharing with them.
- 1. And Jesus answers the question for them, giving them four reasons why they don't understand what He is saying to them.
- B. Number 1, they don't understand Jesus because they are not able to listen to His Word.
- 1. They lack the power to listen to, or heed is the sense of the word used here. They don't have **the power to heed His Word**. Because they lack the Spirit of God. It is the Spirit of God that gives us the ability to understand the Word of God.
 - 2. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote about this very thing stating that, "the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Co. 2:14)
 - 3. The words of Jesus seem like nothing more than foolishness to them because they don't have the Spirit of God dwelling inside of them to lead them and guide them in the truth of God's Word.
 - 4. Without the Spirit of God to lead them, they are incapable of understanding and rightly applying the Word of God to their lives.
 - 5. And the same is true for us. We need God's Spirit to lead us and guide us in understanding and applying God's Word to our lives. Without God's Spirit to lead and guide us in truth, we too will lack the power to rightly divide the Word of God and make application to our own lives.
- C. Number 2, they don't understand Jesus because they are of their father the devil.
- 1. Jesus has shown how Abraham wasn't their father because they didn't have faith in His Son and how God wasn't their father because they didn't have love for His Son. Here he finally identifies who their real father is, and it isn't a good thing.
 - 2. Jesus claims that their father is the devil and how it is evidenced by the way they live their lives. Their **desire is to do the things** that their father does. And Jesus highlights two specific things the devil does that they themselves desire to do.

- a. One, is that they want to kill Him. The devil has been a murderer from the very beginning. He is the one that tempted Eve into taking of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve partook and shared it with Adam and death entered in.
 - i. Death came as a result of the devil tempting mankind to sin. He loves to bring death and destruction to the lives of God's image bearers. And that means you and me.
 - ii. The devil roams around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Peter exhorts us to be sober and vigilant because of him. (1 Pt. 5:8)
 - iii. Later in John's gospel Jesus will describe the devil as the thief who comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. (Jn. 10:10a)
 - iv. The devil is not your friend. He wants to destroy everything good in your life. Don't let him get near you. Stay away from him.
 - b. The other thing that the devil does and they emulate is not standing in the truth; they have no truth in them, no desire for truth.
 - i. The devil is a liar and the father of all lies. Again, it's been something he's been doing since the very beginning. The very first time we see him come on scene he questions God's Word, the truth of God's Word.
 - ii. He came to Eve and said, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" (Gen. 3:1b)
 - iii. Eve said they were allowed to eat from any tree except for the one in the center of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve told the devil that she would die if she ate it
 - iv. And how did the devil respond? He lied right through his fanged teeth boasting, "You will not surely die". (Gen. 3:4)
 - v. God clearly had spoken to Adam and said to him, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Gen. 2:16-17)
 - vi. What does the devil say, "No, you won't". He is a liar. Everything he says is a lie; it's a twisting of the truth, to get people to disobey God and His Word.
 - 3. The fact that they want to do the same things as the devil shows that they are children of the devil. The desires of their heart show who they truly are following after.
- D. Number 3, they do not understand Jesus because they do not want the truth. Jesus said, "Because I tell you the truth, you do not believe Me."
- 1. The truth of the matter is that they don't want to operate in truth. They would rather live in a lie. They would rather have it their way and live in falsehood rather than submit to Christ and live in the truth.

2. They prefer lies to the truth. They would rather remain in the dark, then come into the light. This is what Jesus said to Nicodemus back in chapter 3. He said, "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." (Jn. 3:19-21)
 3. Because Jesus spoke truth to them, they didn't like it. They didn't want to receive it, and this is becoming more and more prevalent in our world today.
 - a. Paul wrote about it in his letter to Timothy stating, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." (2 Tim. 4:3-4)
 - b. People all over are turning away from truth, they are looking for people who are willing to simply tell them what they want to hear. To tickle their itching ears. They have no care or concern for truth whatsoever.
 - c. How else can you explain the blatant acceptance of sin in many of today's churches? They have heaped up for themselves teachers who will just tell them what they want to hear rather than have someone faithfully teach them the truth of God's Word.
 4. People don't understand truth, because they simply don't want to receive truth, they don't want to live according to the truth and would prefer to live in a world of their own making where they get to be the ones who decide what is true or not, rather than submitting to God.
- E. Number 4, the last reason why they do not understand Jesus, is because they are not of God.
1. Jesus said that "He who is of God hears God's words." The idea behind the word "hears" isn't simply referring to audible sound. It carries the sense of obeying, or heeding God's word.
 2. He who is of God obeys God and His words.
 3. John, the beloved disciple, will write later in his epistles, saying, "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." (1 Jn. 2:3-6)
 4. Those who belong to God hear God's Word and put God's Word into action. They live it out.

5. The fact that these Jews do not receive God's Word reveals the reality of their situation. They simply are not of God. Instead of receiving God's truth, they resist it and fight against it, ultimately leading to their complete rejection of God and His Word.

VII. Conclusion;

- A. In our text today Jesus highlights a number of contrasts between where the Jews thought they were and where they actually were.
1. They thought their belief was genuine enough. That believing a few facts about Jesus was sufficient. But it wasn't. Jesus wanted more from them. He wanted them to have a genuine belief in Him that revealed itself through abiding in His Word. Living out His Word.
 2. They thought that they were free, but in reality, they were in bondage. They were slaves to sin and because they remained as slaves they were endangering their future as part of God's family.
 3. Speaking of family, the Jews thought they children of Abraham, but their actions proved otherwise. They may have been descendants of Abraham, but they certainly weren't children of Abraham; children of faith, children who love God and love God's Son.
 4. The Jews thought that they were the holders of truth, that they could determine what truth was. But instead of receiving truth personified right in front of them, they instead resisted the truth and will ultimately end up rejecting the truth; rejecting their own Messiah and crucifying Him upon a cross.
- B. These people from our text were so blinded by their own pride, their own perceived spirituality, that they missed the reality of what was looking them right in the face.
1. And I think this ought to be a warning to us all. That we wouldn't allow ourselves to get to this sort of place, where we are resisting the truth and fighting against the truth.
 2. But that we would receive the truth and live out the truth of God's Word in our everyday lives. That people would see the way we live our lives and they would know that we are followers of Jesus.
 3. Amen? Amen. Let's pray.