



BIBLE STUDY SERIES

# *Free Indeed*

---

LESSON 13

---

## **Free Indeed**

**John 8:36**

*"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."*

The freedom found in Jesus Christ is not fantasy; it is reality. Satan promises false freedom. On the surface, it appears to satisfy our longing for liberty. But in time, it proves to be only bondage.

In the eighth chapter of the book of John, a scene of confrontation unfolds between Christ and a gathering of Jews. The crowd divides between those who believe upon Him and those who strongly oppose Him and His teachings. The Bible records in John 8:30-36,

*As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

To those who believed upon Him, the Lord Jesus emphasizes the importance of His Word. He instructs them, *“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.”* The mark of a true follower of Christ is obedience to the Word of God. He also gives these new believers a precious promise, *“Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* What a comfort it must have been to hear these words from the Lord! His promise guaranteed that they would no longer live under the deception of Satan’s lies but would know God’s truth. In addition to that, the truth of God would make them free – free from the bondage of sin and free to follow the Saviour and do His will.

The Jews who opposed Christ raised great objection to His promise of freedom. They took offense to the notion that they needed to be set free and protested, saying, *“We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man.”* In their thinking, they did not need “the truth” because they were not in error, and they did not need to be made “free” because they were not in bondage. They resented Christ and rejected His message of freedom.

Just as the crowd was divided that day before the Saviour, so there are two responses to Christ in this day. Some receive Him, and some reject Him. Some believe His Word, and others take offense at His Word. In which group are you?

## The Deception of Sin

When we consider the unbelievers who stood that day before Christ, we recognize that they were greatly deceived. The way they perceived themselves was not reality. In John 8:33, they answered the Lord Jesus, “...*We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*” They responded to Christ with a spirit of self-justification and were offended that the Lord Jesus would suggest that they needed to be set free from bondage.

According to God’s Word, sin blinds people to the need of the Saviour. The Bible teaches in II Corinthians 4:3-4, “*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*” The Devil is a master of deception, and he works in such a way as to make men believe that they are free when, in fact, they are in bondage.

In John chapter eight, the unbelieving Jews are blinded by their religious heritage. They think, “Others need deliverance, but not us! We are Abraham’s seed!” Christ makes them aware that they are the servants of sin. He states in verse thirty-four, “...*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*” No matter their heritage or lineage, they are sinners bound in sin.

Likewise, many people today are deceived. They think that their religious identification takes care of any sin. But they are sadly mistaken. The Bible says in

Romans 3:19 that “*all the world*” is “*guilty before God.*” We are all born in the bondage of sin. We are sinners by nature and sinners by choice. Sin has enslaved us; it is our master. We may feel as if we are better than others, but that does not change the fact that we are bound in sin and are unable to deliver ourselves from sin’s chains.

## The Deliverance of the Son

Christ’s response not only addressed their need, but also presented the solution to their need. The only answer for man’s sin is the Son of God. The Lord Jesus Himself is the great Emancipator from the slavery of sin.

In John 8:35, Christ gives a simple illustration to reveal their need of Him. He says, “*And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.*” The “*servant*” represented those unbelievers who were the “*servants of sin.*” In this scene, the unbelievers were Jews who knew well the Old Testament account of how their father Abraham had a son, Ishmael, by a servant and how he was cast out of Abraham’s house. They knew that Isaac, the son of Abraham and Sarah, remained in the house because he was the son of promise. (See also Galatians 4:21-31.) This analogy clearly taught them that, even though they were outwardly identified with God’s house, they would be cast out if they remained in their sin. They needed a Saviour!

Then, in verse thirty-six, the Lord Jesus declares, “*If the Son therefore shall make you free...*” There is hope for the sin-bound soul! The Son of God has the power to break the chains of sin and set captives free!

Deliverance from sin could never be achieved by their religion or by their heritage. It could not be attained through their good deeds or sincere efforts. The Son must make them free. The Son was their only hope. He alone had the miraculous power required to secure their freedom from sin.

The prophecy of Jesus Christ in Isaiah 61:1 is that He would “*proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.*” Sinners who seek deliverance by any means other than Christ will only find themselves more deeply bound in sin. But sinners who turn to the Son of God and place their faith in Him alone for their salvation, will find freedom from the enslavement of sin and liberty to live for Him.

Since we are all by nature in the bondage of sin, the great question is, “What will we do with Jesus Christ the Son of God?” If we believe on Him, He will make us free. Paul testifies in Romans 8:2, “*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*” There is life and liberty in the Son. If we reject the Son, we shall remain the servants of sin and receive the just reward of our sin, which is death (Romans 6:23).

The Jews in John chapter eight had every opportunity to be set free by the Son of God, but they would not believe upon Him. They refused Him vehemently, calling Him a devil (John 8:48, 52), and ultimately seeking to kill Him (John 8:40, 59). Their reaction reminds us of the sad reality that, even though liberty is available to all through Christ, it is only experienced by those who will acknowledge their sinfulness and place their faith in the Son of God to deliver them. The Bible says in John 1:12, “*But as many*

*as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”*

## The Declaration of the Saviour

When Christ speaks of His power to make men free, He makes an amazing declaration concerning this freedom that He provides. The Lord Jesus says in John 8:36, *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”* Notice this promise, *“..Ye shall be free indeed.”* The Devil offers a false freedom; it is a supposed liberty that, in actuality, is bondage. But Christ provides freedom “indeed.” In other words, the liberty we have by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is genuine, real, authentic liberty! It is not a pretense. It is the freedom for which our souls have always yearned.

In Psalm 107, we find the song of those who have been set free from their sin by the Lord. The psalm declares,

*Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness. Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron; because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High: therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help. Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder. (Psalm 107:8-14)*

Those who have been set free by Christ have something to sing about! He has broken the bands of sin and delivered us from the power of death. We should *“praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”* We are “free indeed.”

This is not a fantasy or fiction; it is indeed a reality! Sin no more has a hold upon us, and we are no longer bound by Satan and doomed to hell. The Son has made us free indeed!

Now, those of us who have been made free must echo the same truthful declaration that our Saviour made long ago: *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”* The world in which we live needs hope. People are bound in sin all about us. Some are aware of their bondage, and others are greatly deceived, but all need to hear the truth that the Son of God can make them “free indeed.”

The liberating power of Christ is still in effect today. The lives of God’s children should be vivid examples of His power. We who know the Lord should yield ourselves to serve Him and demonstrate the life-changing power of the gospel. When others see that we have been genuinely set free from sin, they will recognize the truthfulness of our message. Let us declare faithfully that the Son of God has power to make all people free.