



Calvary of Albuquerque

The Best Way & Worst Way to Live - John 8:31-36

From the Series, Believe:879

By Pastor

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Everyone has an opinion on what "The Good Life" is. For some, it's financial independence. For others, it's autonomy from government control. For still others, it's the ability to do whatever you want whenever you feel like it. Jesus offers a different kind of freedom and a better brand of life. Here Jesus tells us what the best way to live really is: It's the freedom to be a genuine disciple. And He tells us what the worst way to live really is: It's the slavery of a sinful lifestyle. Today consider how free you really are and what areas of life you may still be in bondage to.



OUTLINE

I. The Best Way to Live - In Freedom

- A. Believing in Christ (v. 31a)
- B. Continuing in the Word (v. 31b)
- C. Knowing the Truth (v. 32)

II. The Worst Way to Live - n Slavery

- A. To the Slavemaster of Sin (vv. 33-36)
- B. To an Impenetrable Heart (v. 37)

Making it More Than a Sermon:

1. What do most people think freedom is? How does their view differ from what Jesus says true freedom is?
2. How does a hard heart keep people in bondage?
3. In what ways does Jesus make people free? How free are you?

DETAILED NOTES

I. The Best Way to Live—*In Freedom*

(Freedom of authentic discipleship; as an authentic pursuer of Jesus Christ)

A. Believing in Christ (v.31a)

1. Problem: Jesus says to the "believers," "you are trying to kill me" - John 8:37 and "you are of your father, the devil." - John 8:44; two separate groups
2. Believe in Him - believe on Him (KJV)
 - a. Genuine belief
 - b. John 1:12
3. Believed Him
 - a. "believed what He said was true, but not prepared to yield Him the far-reaching allegiance real trust implies," - Leon Morris
 - b. Not all faith is saving faith
 - i. Demons believe and tremble - James 2:19
 - ii. Christ did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men - John 2:24
 - iii. Rocky soil - John 13:5
 - iv. Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith - 2 Corinthians 13:5

B. Continuing in the Word (v.31b)

1. Abide- (used 34 times in the New Testament, John uses 31 of those times) - remain in, continue on in something
2. Real disciples are committed to continuing in His Truth
3. "Long obedience in the same direction," - Eugene Peterson
4. Disciple - (mathetes gr.) - learner
5. How often do you read the Bible personally? How often do you meditate on it?

C. Knowing the Truth (v. 32)

1. Deep convictions, guiding principles
2. In our culture, tolerance is considered most valuable yet Jesus said, "I am the way" - John 14:6
 - a. According to Newsweek, 85% of American Christians believe there are ways beside Christ to heaven
 - b. Jesus is specifically talking of knowledge of Himself (compare v. 36)
3. Relationship, not religion
 - a. Put faith in Him - free from the penalty of sin
 - b. Remain in truth, learn
 - c. Know the word - free from the power of sin
4. We are to be people of the Book
 - a. Man shall not live by bread alone - Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4
 - b. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly - Colossians 3:16

II. The Worst Way to Live—*In Slavery*
(to a sinful lifestyle)

A. To the Slavemaster of Sin (vv. 33-36)

1. We are Abraham's descendants and have never been in bondage to anyone.
 - a. The Jews had been slaves over their entire history (Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Medo-Persia, Greco-Macedonia, Seleucid Syrian, Rome)
 - b. We are Jewish, we are automatically children of God. We'll go to heaven because of our heritage, "even the poor are sons of kings," - Rabbi Akiva
2. Worst form of slavery is when sin has a grip on your life, you can't get out of it
 1. A slave is not his own master
 2. Cannot quit
 - i. Unable to free self
 - ii. Gripping lifestyle

B. To an Impenetrable Heart (v. 37)

1. Hardened heart
2. Seed fell by the wayside; the wicked one snatches it away - Matthew 13:19
3. Only the Son of God can free a slave of sin, and He makes him part of the family

Figures referenced: William Wallace, King Edward 1, Leon Morris, Abraham Lincoln, Eugene Peterson, Billy Graham, Rabbi Akiva, Paul Harvey, Charles Spurgeon

Greek terms: mathetes- disciple, learner

Cross references: Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Matthew 13:19; John 1:12; John 2:24; John 8:37; John 8:44; John 13:5; John 14:6; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Colossians 3:16; James 2:19