

**“How Free is ‘Free Indeed?’”
September 9, 2012**

John 8:31-47

PROP- Jesus wants to fill our world with His world—a world filled with ultimate freedom.

1. HIS WORLD

- The Garden was all “Yes” and one “No” (Satan went to the one “No” and asked, “Why can’t you have this?” Implied: “God’s holding out on you!”)
- His world is ultimate freedom:
 - “Where the Spirit of the Lord is...liberty” (2 Cor. 3:17)
 - “No matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through Him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.” (2 Cor. 1:20)

2. HIS TRUTH (Lit.- “His reality”)

- John 8:32- “Know the truth” (Lit.- “experience My reality”)
- John 8:36- “Free indeed”- *truly, in reality; nothing pretended, fictitious, or false*
- Jesus comes to TAKE...
 - He comes to “take away the sins of the world” (John 1:29)
 - Colossians 2:13-15 (What Jesus “takes away”)
- So that He can GIVE...
 - “Your Father is pleased to give you the Kingdom” (Luke 12:32)
 - “Did not spare His own Son...freely gives us all things” (Romans 8:32)
 - He only takes something away—to give us something better (SEE Isaiah 61:3)

3. WHAT DOES “FREE INDEED” LOOK LIKE?

“SET YOU FREE” (John 8:32) → Nothing will dominate you!!!

TWO TEMPTATIONS THAT CAN NO LONGER DOMINATE OUR THINKING:

NOTE:

- Jesus was “tempted in every way that we are” (Hebrews 4:15)
- Jesus—the freest Person who ever lived!
- These temptations are “common to man” (1 Cor. 10:13)
- God always provides a “way of escape” from them (1 Cor. 10:13)

#1- SELF-FOCUS (*Indulge yourself*)

In the wilderness, Jesus was tempted to make bread out of a stone (*i.e., do something amazing to meet your own need*) and to bow before satan (*i.e., forfeit His sonship to gain the world*).

SEE PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21

Freedom is NOT “casting off restraints” (Proverbs 29:18)—standard-less & selfish, “anything goes”, etc.

- “I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free” (Psalm 119:32) “Run unhindered”, joining you in your quality of life!
- “I will walk in freedom for I have sought out your precepts.” (Psalm 119:45) (Lit.- I will naturally live in a “roomy place” (Psalm 18:19; 31:8)
- “This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome” (1 John 5:3)

#2- PERFORMANCE (*Prove yourself*)

Jesus was tempted to perform a spectacular miracle (*throw Himself from a high place to be rescued by angels*) in order to “prove His worth.”

Galatian believers:

- Tried to earn by effort the acceptance they already had by grace. “*Are you going to continue this craziness? For only crazy people would think they could complete by their own efforts what was begun by God.*” (Galatians 3:3 *The Message*)
- Lost their joy. “*What has happened to all your joy?*” (4:15)
- Lost their zeal. “*You were running a good race. Who cut in on you?*” (5:7)
- Became critical “*Biting and devouring one another*” (5:15) [NOTE: Performance competes—puts down. Love honors—lifts up]

RESPONSE

“Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.” (Galatians 5:1 *The Message*)

Stand in & declare your absolute freedom in Jesus!