

John 8:31-59

Tuesday Bible Study: Week 13



April 28, 2026

1. Jesus says to those who have believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (8:31–32). What does Jesus mean by “continue in my word”? How is this different from how the world thinks about freedom?
2. The crowd responds, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone” (8:33). Do you think what they say is true? What are we held captive to, and where do we tend to be blind to our own captivity?
3. Jesus draws a sharp distinction between a slave and a child of the household (8:34–35). What does it mean to live as a child of God rather than a slave? How does this distinction shape the way you understand your relationship with God?
4. In verses 39–41, Jesus challenges the crowd’s claim to be Abraham’s children by pointing to their actions: “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing what Abraham did.” What did Abraham do that made him the model of faithfulness? How do our actions reveal, or betray, what we truly believe?

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5. The crowd accuses Jesus of being a Samaritan and having a demon (8:48, 52). Why do you think they react this way?
 - a. What can this passage tell us about how humans behave when feeling threatened?

6. Jesus says, “Whoever keeps my word will never see death” (8:51). What kind of death is he talking about? Does the promise of eternal life shape the way we are called to live here and now?

7. The passage culminates in one of the most extraordinary claims in all of Scripture: “Before Abraham was, I am” (*ego eimi*) (8:58). How does this statement connect to the other “I AM” statements we have encountered in John’s Gospel? What is Jesus claiming, and what does that mean for us as followers of Jesus?

8. This chapter is full of sharp conflict—accusations, counteraccusations, and an attempt to stone Jesus (8:59). Yet Jesus does not soften his message. What does this tell us about the interaction of niceness, love, and truth?