

This is a very deep section of scripture. There are many ways to categorize and outline this chapter. These are my first impressions.

Who is Your Daddy, God or Satan? (John 8:30-47)

Notice John 8:30 says many “believed” on him. We will see that this belief is not true saving faith. Jesus will continue speaking to them and at the end of this section, he will call them children of Sata.

I. Being Disciples of Christ Or Slaves of Sin (8:31-36)

A. The Evidence of Discipleship to Christ (31-32)

1. The Effect of Abiding in Jesus’ Word (31)

- a. Jesus says If you abide in my word you are my disciple
- b. This sounds like works righteousness – you must abide in order to be a disciple
- c. Notice the tenses –
 - i. “If you abide in my word” this is called a subjunctive which is just a fancy way to say it is something that is possible in the future. Jesus is giving a condition. He is saying, “in the future, if you abide in my word”
 - ii. “then you are truly my disciples” – notice the present tense – then you ARE a disciple (right now)
 - iii. So the future “abiding in his word” is the evidence of a reality you already possess (you are a disciple).
 - iv. The abiding in his word is evidence that you already are a disciple.

2. The Benefits of Abiding in Jesus’ Word (32)

- a. Jesus’ Word brings Knowledge of Truth
 - i. You will know the truth
 - ii. Jesus’ disciples are not left to wonder – we have the word. We have the truth
- b. Jesus’ Word Brings Freedom from Slavery
 - i. The truth will set you free
 - ii. The lost are slaves to sin – the gospel brings freedom from this slavery

B. The Evidence of Slavery to Sin (33-36)

1. Slaves of sin deny the Need to Be Free (33)

- a. The Jews denied they needed to be free
- b. They claimed to be Abraham’s offspring (they thought this gave them a special spiritual status with God)
- c. They denied they were ever enslaved
 - i. Perhaps they mean spiritually enslaved because the Jews had been enslaved by Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome – there were few times in their history when they were not enslaved

- ii. Perhaps they were so blind that they believed God held them in such high regard – that even though nations enslaved them – they were free
- iii. They questioned Jesus' statement – they were offended at the proposition that they were slaves
- iv. Man is still offended at this assertion

2. Slaves of sin practice a Lifestyle of Sin (34)

- a. Those who commit sin are slaves to it
- b. "commit" here is a present participle in Greek meaning an continuous practice – this is a lifestyle of sin.
- c. Jesus shows that those who live lives characterized by sin demonstrates that they are slaves to sin
 - i. they cannot help but sin
 - ii. They are slaves to their master

3. Slaves of sin cannot Free themselves (35-36)

- a. Slaves don't have the rights of the son (35)
 - i. Jesus uses the illustration of a house
 - Slaves have no rights in the house
 - They have no security in the house
 - they can be sold or removed at any time
 - Slaves cannot claim to have rights
 - ii. The Jews could not claim a right to God because of who they are
- b. Slaves can only Be freed by the Son (36)
 - i. The son of a house has rights
 - ii. The son has the right to free the slaves
 - iii. Jesus has the right to free slaves of sin

II. Identifying Slaves of Sin (37-47)

A. They Are Known By their Actions (37-41)

1. Family Status Does not Determine Spiritual State (37)

- a. Jesus acknowledges they are Abraham's physical descendents
- b. They sought to kill Jesus, which is against God's law
- c. They will not accept Jesus' Words
- d. They cannot claim to follow Abraham and seek to break God's law continually

2. Man's Life Demonstrates His Spiritual State (38-41a)

- a. Man's Works Demonstrate their Spiritual Father (38)
 - i. Jesus speaks what He has seen from the Father
 - Jesus was once in the presence of the Father
 - Jesus is giving them the message of God
 - ii. They are "doing" what they heard from their Father
 - They are seeking to do evil works
 - They are being outwardly religious while seeking to commit murder

b. Their Works Demonstrate Abraham is Not their Father (39-40)

- i. They claim Abraham as their Father (39a)
 - they thought this gave them a special status before God
 - they claimed the promises given to Abraham

- ii. Jesus dismisses their claim as Abraham's children (39b)

- they are not the children of Abraham
 - because they are not doing the works of Abraham
 - Abraham's life was characterized by faith
 - Abraham believed the truth from God

- iii. They sought to kill Jesus

- Jesus told them truth from God
 - Abraham would have accepted it
 - Abraham did not reject truth they way they were doing.

c. Their Works Demonstrate their True Father (41a)

- i. They do the works of their true Father
- ii. Later Jesus will show that he is speaking of the devil

B. They are Known by Their Lifestyle Characteristics (41b-47)

1. Characteristics of God's Children (41b-43)

a. The Jews Claim God as their Father (41b)

- i. They fall back on their status as Jews
- ii. They believe they are God's people just because of their nationality and ancestry.

b. God's Children Love Jesus (42)

- i. Jesus said, "If God were your father you would love me"
- ii. God's children love Jesus because Jesus came from God – God the Father sent him
- iii. You cannot know God without loving Jesus
- iv. It is impossible to know God and not love Jesus
 - Loving Jesus is something God puts in believer's hearts

c. God's Children Hear Jesus' Word (43)

- i. Those outside of Christ will reject his words
 - they may accept some things, but never what He says about sin, righteous, and judgment

2. Characteristics of Satan's Children (44-47)

a. Satan's Children Desire to Do His Will (44-45)

- i. The Jews desire the will of their Father (44a)
 - Jesus plainly says – you are of your father the devil
 - Jesus says – they desires what he desires

- in this instance, their desire is to reject and kill Jesus

ii. Characteristics of the Devil (44b)

- The devil is a murderer and hates truth
- The Jews desired to murder Jesus and reject his truth
- The devil is a liar and the father of lies
- the Jews lie constantly trying to accuse Jesus
- the Jews are doing the same works the devil does

iii. The Jews don't believe the truth of Jesus (45)

- Satan doesn't abide in truth
- therefore his children cannot accept truth

b. Satan's Children Cannot Accept Truth (46-47)

i. The evidence of Jesus' Life points to truth (46)

- No one can convict Jesus of sin
- regardless of what they say and do, there is no evidence that Jesus ever sinned and therefore he must be speaking truth
- He asks why they don't believe him if there is no evidence he has ever sinned?

ii. Only God's Children Hear Jesus' Words (47)

- whoever is of God hears Jesus' words
- the reason they can't hear (accept) is because they are not of God