



For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)

In the gospel according to John, we see Jesus speak of what it means to be his disciple. You will recall that Jesus selected 12 people to be his inner circle of disciples (Mark 3:13-19). His selection of 12 men was a way of paralleling the 12 tribes of the ancient Israelites under the leadership of Moses. Jesus was reenacting the liberation of the Hebrew people from bondage from Egypt and drawing parallels to the liberation from the worldly powers of religious and political clout in his day.

According to John’s account, true disciples are those who hold to Jesus’ teaching. Hence, being a disciple or follower of Jesus is not about making a single decision to invite Jesus into our hearts as Savior and Lord; rather, being a disciple or Christian is about holding to his teaching. Some days we do this well; other days we fall short. Regardless, our primary goal is to follow Jesus in our present lives (not to get to heaven in our future lives).

Jesus concludes that following him and holding to his teaching is the way to find what is true. This is not so much about having true or right beliefs as it is about living out truth as we possess and share the character and nature of Jesus to those we encounter in our lives. Subsequently, Jesus refers to a freedom that comes as we walk in his way. This doesn’t mean that we are free to live however we want without consequence. Instead, Jesus is calling us to a freedom to be authentic, vulnerable, and real with God, ourselves, and others.



REFLECTION:

How free are you to be open and honest about what is going on inside you?

PRACTICE:

Meet with someone you trust and talk openly about what you are going through.