

Freeing People to Follow Jesus

ADAGES - WHO SAID WHAT?

John 8:31-32 ... not simply a philosophical passage about becoming free from the bonds of ignorance. The truth is closely connected with the person of Jesus.

THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE ... A FEW TRUTHS:

Believing in Jesus does not make one a follower of Jesus.

Jesus speaks this to those who believed in him.

These believers did not become followers because they became offended at his truths.

We are also given to deny that we are “not free.”

We will never be free “indeed” without embracing our need for Christ.

Following Jesus takes holding, abiding and remaining—essential qualities for a follower of Jesus.

Abiding followers of Jesus believe that he is essential to their true freedom.

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36

‘Truth’ and ‘Son’ are often interchangeable in John’s gospel.

Following Jesus costs no less than everything.

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Matthew 16:24

Following Jesus is best done in community.

**IF WE ARE TO BE EFFECTIVE AT FREEING PEOPLE
TO FOLLOW JESUS, WE MUST REALIZE THAT THOUGH
THE GOSPEL IS OFFENSIVE, WE ARE NOT TO BE.**

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:19

THE POINT IS ‘LOOSING’ AND NOT ‘BINDING’.

A community committed to freeing and loosing the poor, the prisoner, the blind and the oppressed. (see Luke 4:16-21)

Small Group Questions

1. Were you able to answer accurately who said “the truth will set you free”?
2. Are there other instances in the Gospels where a “Believer” in Jesus did not become a “Follower” of Jesus?
3. Was there a season in your life when you initially stumbled over the idea that you were not “free indeed”?
4. Have you experienced Christians who sadly did more ‘binding’ than ‘loosing’?
5. In what ways is North Way Christian Community effectively presenting the message of the Gospel in the spirit of ‘loosing’ verses the spirit of ‘binding’?