

## Freed From Slavery to Sin

Greetings to You All,

This is the time of year we in the United States celebrate our freedom from the yoke of British rule. For thousands of years, Jews have celebrated the Passover as a yearly reminder of the time when God rescued them from slavery in Egypt.

But Christians look to something else. The New Testament Passover is neither a day nor a ritual, but is Jesus himself. We look to Jesus because he is the only way we can be rescued from the slavery of sin.

“If you hold to my teaching,” he said, “you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32). The Jewish leaders were puzzled at that. “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” (v. 33). True, the Jews were descendants of Abraham, but that didn’t mean that they didn’t need to be set free. Jesus told them, “Everyone who sins is a slave to sin” (v. 34). People are enslaved by their own tendency to sin—enslaved by their own desires. We all sin, and we all need to be set free.

### **Freed by Jesus**

The truth will set us free, Jesus said, but truth isn’t simply a matter of telling people certain facts. We can spout facts until we are blue in the face, but if people don’t believe the truth, it won’t help them. And what is the truth? Jesus is the truth, and the way, and the life (John 14:6).

We are freed by believing in Jesus, not by learning certain facts. We have to trust in him, not in our own understanding of the facts. We are fallible, but we can trust in Jesus to give us something we cannot earn.

Notice how Jesus, instead of giving his questioners more information, switches to another metaphor: “A slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever” (John 8:35). It’s not what you know, he seems to be saying, but whether you are part of the family. Information cannot make us part of God’s family, but Jesus can. We have a right relationship with God only through Jesus, the Son of God.

So Jesus says, “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (v. 36). He sets us free from sin by placing us into the family of God. We still struggle with sin (some sins more than others), but we are being rescued from its grip, and rescued from its results, all made possible by the supreme sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Larry*

*Pastoral Team Leader*