

Faith in the Home

Sermon Notes for the Kiddos (and everybody else) Reformation Sunday
John 8:31-38: "True Freedom."

In John 8, Jesus is teaching about who He is, and while many hear and believe, there are those who disbelieve as well. Beginning in verse 31, Jesus specifically speaks to those who had once believed that He was the Messiah, but no longer did. They believed, but then they fell away.

How could they see Jesus in the flesh and not believe? How could they see His miracles and yet reject Him? This is all part of our human nature and our history in this world. Adam and Eve walked in a garden of paradise with God and still managed to reject Him. Our forefathers of the faith were set free from God's miraculous and powerful hand only to build a golden calf in the desert.

Just over 500 years ago God's Church was so corrupt that it lost sight of Jesus and who we are because of Him. That is why God raised up Martin Luther who stood firmly on God's Word in order to renew the broken Church.

There is a trend of enslavement here, and it is all on the account of rejecting God. This is why Jesus says, "Those who sin are slaves to sin." Furthermore, Jesus goes on to say that their father is "the devil." Does this mean that you are slave on account of your own sin? This why the Gospel is so wonderful! God's Word, Jesus, The Word made Flesh, has set you free. You are no longer defined by your sins, and your failures. The liar the devil defines you by your sin, but Jesus calls you by name and His Father sees us as His own children.

Jesus promised, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." We abide in Jesus by standing firm in our faith. We abide in Him by confessing our sins, and receiving the Gospel truth that we are forgiven. We abide by seeking God's will (defined by the Ten Commandments), securely knowing that He is here to help His dear children when they fail.

This is what makes Reformation Sunday so special. We are reminded that Satan will

always seek to enslave us, but God will always raise people up in His Church to proclaim His truth that sets us free. Freedom comes from the cross. Freedom comes from the empty tomb. Freedom comes from Jesus alone.

How do we teach and model these things to our children?

1. We cannot forget the spiritual warfare that we are constantly engaged in.
2. At some point we are all going to have to share with our children that there are such things as good and evil, and that there are supernatural spiritual beings that are good and evil. This may seem like a no brainer, but children today are being fed with a moral relativism that invites lies about the very core of who we are as humans. Satan can take a good word like “tolerance” and twist it into something destructive.
3. Assure your children that while Satan seeks to enslave and destroy, God who is stronger and mightier is good. Remind them that Jesus has won, is winning, and will win always and forever, until He finally throws Satan into Hell.
4. Before the Reformation the Bible was not written in a common language for the people. Martin Luther translated the Bible into German from the original Hebrew and Greek, so that all could know God's Word in his own nation. Let's not take for granted the fact that we the Bible in our own language by letting it just sit idly on our coffee tables or book shelves. Read your Bibles and be assured of the wonders of our God!

Has this been helpful? Why/why not? Do you have any suggestions? Pastor Joel would really appreciate your feedback! Please contact him at luckemeyerj@gmail.com Thanks!