

To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. Amen.

<sup>25</sup> Then they said to Him, “Who are You?” And Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning. <sup>26</sup> I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.” <sup>27</sup> They did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. <sup>29</sup> And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.” <sup>30</sup> As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” <sup>33</sup> They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be made free’?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. <sup>35</sup> And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. <sup>36</sup> Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

John 8:25-36    A 2/19/17    1 Samuel 17:42-51    Acts 16:24-35    Psalm 95 (Resp. Ps.: 96)  
Hymns: 545, 281, 755, 360

### **JESUS SEEKS TO SAVE EVERYONE!**

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

I once knew an elderly woman who was dying of cancer. It made me very sad because I don’t think she believed in Jesus as her Savior. I’m grateful that I had the chance to tell her about Jesus and her salvation in Him.

As our text begins Jesus was in the temple complex speaking to a group of people who had gathered around Him. Some were listening to Him with open hearts and minds, wanting to know the truth about Him. Others were closed-minded and kept arguing with Him. Some of them asked Jesus, “Who are You?” Who is Jesus Christ? How we answer that question – what we believe about Jesus Christ – means either our eternal salvation or our eternal damnation.

When asked who He is Jesus answered, “Just what I have been saying to you from the beginning.” Some people claim, “Jesus never said He’s God. He never said He’s the Savior of the world.” Yes He did, on both accounts. Read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Jesus clearly says that He’s the eternal, almighty Son of God and only Savior of the world. At the end of the same chapter from which our text is taken Jesus says, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM” (v. 58). Jesus says in the same book from which our text is taken, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (Jn. 14:6). Jesus doesn’t leave us to wonder who He is. He tells us who He is in His Word.

Jesus told the people, “I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.” As the Son of God

sent from God the Father Jesus had things to tell them that they needed to hear. They needed to learn from Jesus that they were sinners, and that Jesus had come to give them eternal salvation.

Jesus told them, “*When you lift up the Son of Man*” – when Jesus would be crucified – “*then you will know that I am He*” (from the original text, literally, “*I Myself am He*” (Who? The **Messiah!**) “*I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.*” As we view Jesus dying on the cross we come to know Him and what He came to do for us. Jesus wasn’t executed as a false, failed earthly messiah. Jesus offered up His life on the cross as the promised Savior of the world carrying out His Father’s will for our salvation.

We’re told that “*as [Jesus] spoke these words, many believed in Him.*” Jesus loves everyone, and He wants to save everyone. He had been speaking to everyone gathered around Him, those who were listening to His words as well as those who kept opposing Him and what He said. And as Jesus spoke to them, many of them came to believe in Him. Paul says, “*I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes*” (Ro. 1:16). As we hear what the Bible says about Jesus and what He has done to save us, that Gospel message has the power to work faith in our hearts in Jesus as our Savior, so we can say with Paul, “*I know whom I have believed*”! (2 Tim. 1:12).

“*Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed.’*” Not long before this Jesus had fed the 5,000. As we read that account in the sixth chapter of John, we see that many of them wanted to follow Jesus because of His miracle. They wanted to take Him by force to make Him their earthly king (Jn. 6:15) so He would keep feeding them and taking care of their earthly wants and needs. But Jesus refused to be that kind of messiah. Instead He told them He had come to give them spiritual nourishment for their souls and eternal salvation. They took offense at Jesus’ words and stopped following Him. It was different with those people in our text who, after hearing Jesus’ words, “*believed in Him.*” Jesus told them that being His true followers means “*[abiding]*” in His Word – continuing to hear and study His Word, and remaining faithful to Jesus and all of His Word.

Jesus says, “*‘If you abide in My Word, ... you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’*” We can tell from the words that follow that Jesus is talking about spiritual freedom. By faith in Jesus and His Word He sets us free from sin’s hold on us and sin’s effect on us.

“*[The people] answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants’*” (emphasizing “*Abraham*” in the original text), “*and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be made free?’*” They thought that because they were descendants of Abraham – because they were Jews – that made them God’s people. They thought they weren’t in bondage to sin and unbelief like the gentiles.

“*Jesus answered them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.’*” The word Jesus uses for “*sin*” here in the original text is the same word for “*sin*” used in Romans 3:23: “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” Since “*all*” of us, the Jews included, sin, then everyone by nature is a slave to sin. Jesus continued, “*A slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.*” No one who is a slave to sin can be a part

of God's family and receive the inheritance of eternal life. Only those whom Jesus frees from sin are God's sons and daughters, and receive eternal life with Him in heaven.

In telling these Jewish people, "*A slave does not abide in the house forever,*" Jesus was warning them that their nation's time as God's chosen people under the old covenant was coming to an end. Jesus, their promised Messiah, was standing right in front of them. He wanted all of the Jews to believe in Him and be saved. Sadly, most of them rejected Jesus. He came to cry out, "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, ... who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! Behold! Your house is left to you desolate*" (Mt. 23:37).

Jesus told the people, "*Therefore if the Son*" (in the original text, emphasizing "***the Son***") "*makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*" As long as we're on earth, we have our sinful nature, and we sin. We have to confess with Paul, "*The good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice*" (Ro. 7:19). So how does Jesus "[make us] free" from sin? One way Jesus frees us from sin is by His forgiveness. The Bible says, "*The blood of Jesus Christ [God's Son] cleanses us from all sin. ... If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (1 Jn. 1:7, 9). Jesus died on the cross for our sins. When we tell Jesus we're sorry for our sins, He takes all of our sin and our guilt away. Jesus tells us, "*Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven!*" (Mt. 9:22). Another way Jesus frees us from sin is by giving us the power to resist it. We don't have to despair because of our sins and weaknesses. We're not slaves to our sinfulness and our weaknesses. Jesus frees us from sin's ability to make us its slave. The Bible says, "*It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure*" (Philip. 2:13). Jesus is working in us. Jesus helps us to change, so that we want to do the things that are pleasing to Him and we're able to do the things that are pleasing to Him. The writer to the Hebrews says that Jesus set us free from sin "*to serve the living God*" (He. 9:14). Finally, Jesus will free us from sin once and for all when He takes us to heaven. The Bible says that the believers in heaven have "*washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple*" (Rev. 7:14-15). "*If the **Son** makes you free, you shall be free indeed*"!

I urged that elderly woman dying of cancer to find out the truth about Jesus for herself. I encouraged her to read what the Bible says about Jesus, and ask Jesus to let her know that it's true. I told her she could **know for herself** that Jesus truly is the Son of God and her Savior from sin. I told her that everyone who believes in Jesus is saved, and has eternal life in heaven. I told her she had nothing to lose by finding these things out for herself, and everything to gain. I hope she took what I said to heart, and did it, and that we'll see her one day in heaven.

"Dear Jesus, thank You that You seek to save everyone. Thank You that You **sought us**, and saved **us!**" Amen.