

Apr 24, 2022



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**Lesson Leaders:**

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**Class Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Liberty is reserved for those who believe that Jesus is God's Son who was sent into the world to break the power of sin's hold on us through His death and resurrection

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Jesus, help me to believe that You can set me free

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed  
(John 8:36 NKJV)

*From "Our Daily Bread", Apr 30, 2020)*

**Series: God Frees and Redeems**

**UNIT 3: Liberating Letters**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Freedom from Sin  
(Romans 6:1-14)**

## **Freedom in the King John 8:31-38**

### **Lesson Background and Introduction**

Freedom can be looked at from at least four angles: (1) those who have freedom, and they know it; (2) those who lack freedom, and they know it; (3) those who have freedom, but they don't realize it; and (4) those who lack freedom, but they don't know it. Various forms of the words freedom, liberty, and their synonyms occur dozens of times in the New Testament, indicating the importance of the topic. Modern discussions regarding the concept of freedom revolve around ideas of personal volition, responsibility, and the ability of people to express themselves without interference. But Jesus was less concerned with freedom in that regard. Instead, Jesus was concerned about freedom and liberation from the insidious grip of sin. Jesus' audience did not realize that they were experiencing this kind of bondage. While they thought their ethnic heritage provided freedom, they were actually experiencing bondage. Their so-called freedom was an illusion based on a lie. Jesus spoke truth because he spoke the words of his Father, a declaration of true freedom. Freedom that comes from the Father leads to eternal life with the Son. Those who crave this freedom will seek Jesus and his Word and become his disciples. As such, his disciples will know the truth, and the truth will set them free. A new day of freedom has been established.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**Accepting Christ** - Jesus desires to be understood. He wants those who associate with His name to experience genuine salvation. Jesus desires for God's children to be steadfast in their faith and not wishy-washy. He loves for God's children to sit at His feet, hanging on to His every word, seeking to know His truth. This kind of behavior results in freedom.

**The Truth Will Set You Free** - Consistently reading, studying, and seeking to understand the Scriptures is one of the primary steps in becoming a true disciple of Christ. The next step is following His instructions. Those sincerely committed to the Lord are learners who adjust their actions accordingly. Truth is not only an intellectual understanding of words on a page in the Bible. One of Jesus' names is "the truth" (John 14:6). He is the source of all truth, the ultimate standard of what is right. The Lord breaks the chains of Satan's lies and deception.

**Freedom Beyond Status** - When Jesus talked about freedom, the Jewish people argued they had never been in bondage to anyone. They were Abraham's children. But Jesus was not referring to political or cultural status when He spoke of freedom. All humanity is born in bondage to sin and rebellion against God. Wrongdoing and wrong attitudes toward God control the unbeliever. Freedom from sin is why Jesus came, died on the Cross, and shed His blood. His sacrifice breaks the chains of sin for all who believe in Him (John 3:16).

**Experience Jesus' Liberty** - Only a few accept the real truth about Christ. Sadly, a lot of people think because they live in America, go to church, and try to do right by their fellowman, they are a follower of Jesus, a Christian. Yet they remain tormented by the shame of their past and bad habits they cannot overcome. This is not the liberty Jesus offers. Individuals often talk about feeling a heaviness within but do not know that it's sin, the rejection of the truth about Jesus Christ weighing them down. Jesus lifts the load. There is no freedom anywhere on earth like freedom in Christ

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Freedom Defined (John 8:31-38)**

#### *Freedom is abiding in the truth (31-33)*

Abiding in the truth of God's precepts (Ps 119:43-45)

Abiding in the truth of God's sanctifying word (John 17:17)

Abiding in the truth as obedient slaves to righteousness (Rom 6:17-18)

Abiding in the truth of repentance (2 Tim 2:24-26)

Abiding in the truth of God's perfect law (James 1:25)

#### *Freedom is not being a slave to sin (34-36)*

Slaves to sin because of being caught in the cords of sin (Prov 5:22)

Not being a slave to sin through crucifixion of the old self (Rom 6:6-7)

Not being a slave to sin through being a slave to obedience (Rom 6:16)

Not being a slave to sin through being freed by God (Rom 6:20-22)

Not being a slave to sin through being made alive in Christ (Eph 2:1-5)

#### *Freedom is not through human heritage (37-38)*

Not through human heritage but through God's promises (Rom 9:8)

Not through human heritage but through circumcision of the heart (Rom 2:28-29)

Not through human heritage but through being one in Christ Jesus (Gal 3:28-4:1)

Not through human heritage but through belief in Jesus' Name (John 1:12-13)

Not through human heritage but through God's mercy (Rom 9:16)