

“My word has no place in you”

John 8:37

Introduction

1. In a discourse with a crowd of Jews, Jesus’ words began to persuade them – **John 8:30**.
2. However, knowing that discipleship involves more than mere surface belief, Jesus sought to sift them as wheat, i.e. expose those who were willing to follow Him and His truth, and those who were not.
3. **John 8:31-38** – Jesus reveals true discipleship.
 - a. **(vv. 31-32)** – Not just a surface belief in His claims, but acting on them – submitting to His word, and truly following Him. (Acknowledgment that they needed such for freedom.)
 - b. **(vv. 33-36)** – Their confusion about His mentioning of freedom, and His assertion that they are in need of freedom from sin.
 - c. **(vv. 37-38)** – Jesus admits that they are of Abraham physically, but their desires show that they are not truly of Abraham because they won’t accept Him fully, but seek to kill Him.
4. **John 8:37** – The reason they would not be freed from sin’s bondage, and that they were not truly Abraham’s children was that the word of Christ had no place in them.
 - a. **“because my word hath not free course in you.” (ASV)**
 - b. I.e. they were unwilling to let His word into them. They had barred out the truth. They were closed minded about the Messiah, and were unwilling to yield to His claims about the Messiah which were according to truth.
 - c. He had given them ample proof, but they were not receptive due to their condition Jesus pointed out – His word has no place in them – **John 5:31-47** – 4fold witness – John, Miracles, God the Father, Moses – scriptures.
5. We must not make the mistake these Jews made, but must give place for the word in us. Does Christ’s word have place in you?
 - I. What Place the Word Should Have
 - A. A Place of Love in the Heart
 - a. **Psalm 119:9-16** – We must hide God’s word in our heart.
 - i. I.e. we must treasure it above all else **(vv. 14, 16)**.
 - ii. It is a part of our every thought, and precedes every action that we take.
 - iii. **(v. 11)** – This is necessary to keep from sinning.
 - b. **Matthew 6:21** – What we value (treasure) is where our heart will be.
 - c. **“Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding” (Proverbs 23:23).**
 - d. **“Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day” (Psalm 119:97).**

- e. **Job 23:12** – Do we treasure God’s word above even the necessity of food?
 - B. A Place of Honor
 - a. **Psalm 1:1-2** – It is given a place above all other ways and counsel.
 - i. God’s word should not take a back seat to other things.
 - ii. **1 Corinthians 3:18-20** – We must give place to God’s wisdom, understanding that it is greater than our own, or any other man – that is the respect it deserves.
 - iii. **Isaiah 55:8-9** – Do we believe God’s words/thoughts are greater than our own?
 - b. **Matthew 15:7-9** – lip service will not suffice, but we honor God by valuing His word above all else (human tradition).
 - C. A Place of Trust
 - a. Do we trust God’s word? If so, it will show.
 - b. Do we believe the sayings of God are faithful, or trustworthy? – **1 Timothy 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Timothy 2:11; Titus 3:8**
 - c. **Jeremiah 10:23** – Do we trust God’s path for us revealed in His word.
 - d. **Proverbs 3:5-8** – Do we trust with all our heart?
- II. The Reason the Word Has No Place in Some
- A. They Are Too Busy
 - a. Some are too busy with other things which show themselves to be more important than God’s word.
 - i. Like Martha – **Luke 10:38-42** – are we choosing the good part like Mary?
 - b. Are you a Christian who shows this?
 - c. **Luke 2:48-49** – Like Jesus, we should be busy with the Father’s business.
 - d. If you are too busy now, then when will you have the time? – **John 9:4** – NIGHT IS COMING.
 - e. **Ephesians 5:15-17** – We must redeem the time we have, and gain an understanding of God’s word.
 - B. It Has Lost Their Interest
 - a. **Acts 17:21** – Some are like the Athenians who just want to hear new things, whatever they may be.
 - b. Has the message of the cross become outdated to you? – **cf. Revelation 2:4-5** – have you left your first love?
 - c. **2 Peter 1:12** – Peter thought it necessary to remind his audience. We need reminders too.
 - d. WE MUST FULLY BELIEVE GOD’S WORD IS A NECESSITY SO THAT IT DOES NOT LOSE OUR INTEREST – **John 6:27** – God’s word is spiritual food which is a DAILY NECESSITY.
 - C. They Are Too Fond of Sin

- a. When a man is carnally minded it is impossible for the word of God to have place in Him.
 - b. **James 4:4** – Friendship with the world.
 - c. **Romans 8:5-8** – If we are carnally minded, i.e. having our mind set on the things of the flesh, it is IMPOSSIBLE for us to please God, because He is Spirit, and His word appeals to the spiritually minded.
 - d. **James 1:21** – We must lay our sin aside to receive God’s word.
- III. The Consequences of Having No Place for the Word
- A. Sin
 - a. **Psalm 119:11** – The opposite is true. If the word is not in our heart, and it has no place, then SIN ABOUND.
 - b. **1 John 3:4** – Sin is lawlessness. When God’s law has no place in our hearts the result is sin.
 - c. **1 John 3:7-9** – The one who has God’s seed (His word) in him WILL NOT SIN, and CANNOT SIN – because to have God’s word in us is to be abiding by it, which is the opposite of sin.
 - B. A Hardened Heart
 - a. Some think they can continually bar out God’s word without lasting consequences. They are sorely mistaken.
 - b. **1 Timothy 4:1-2** – The scripture speaks of a state the conscience can reach of being SEARED – past feeling.
 - i. It is possible to cause the word to lose its effectiveness on your soul.
 - ii. This is not due to the lack of power in the word, but to the persistence of your stubborn will.
 - iii. **Romans 1:18, 24, 26, 28** – God will not fight against you. He will give you up if you so desire.
 - C. Condemnation by the Word
 - a. The ultimate consequence is that which happens in the end.
 - b. **John 12:48** – Jesus said we ALREADY have that which judges us. If we give no place to the word now, we had better believe we will be condemned by it later.
 - c. **Hebrews 4:11-13** – We WILL give an answer for our deeds before God based upon the word. Let us not disobey, but submit before it is too late.

Conclusion

1. Are we keeping the word from having place in us? Are we allowing it free-course?
2. We should open our minds to God’s word, and do as it says.
3. **1 Thessalonians 5:19-20** – DON’T quench the Spirit by failing to give place for God’s word in you.