**That’s Not in the Bible! #6 + Weekly Devotion + 7.10.2024**

**Saying #6:** *“The truth will set you free.”*

“The truth will set you free” is a common saying in academia. It’s used as the motto of many universities and schools. The context of this phrase, however, isn’t academia. The quote comes from Jesus in John 8:32, “and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Jesus’ words in John 8:32 follow from the previous verse: “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32).

The context of Jesus’ words is a dialogue with some Jews. These particular Jews were wrestling with Jesus’ identity as the Son of God. Despite this, St. John reports that many people believed in Him (John 8:30). Then Jesus said that “the truth” would set them free, to which they responded “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?” (John 8:33).

Their response is almost laughable. They say that they’d never been enslaved to anyone… but what about the Egyptians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, and the Romans? All of these people had subjugated the Jews at one time or another. And they missed the most obvious enslavement of all, the one which Jesus was speaking about in John 8. They didn’t realize that they were “slaves of sin” and, by extension, slaves of the devil (see John 8:34-47).

Jesus said that “the truth” would set them free from slavery to sin. But, to ask Pontius Pilate’s well-known question, “what is truth?” (John 18:38). Jesus answers this question in John 14:6, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus is the capital “T” Truth! He’s the Truth which sets us free from sin by His death and resurrection. So, to paraphrase Jesus words in John 8:31-32, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know Me, and I will set you free.” That’s exactly what Jesus means when He says, “the truth will set you free.” He's referring to Himself and His Word.

Jesus’ words are spoken in a specific context, and it isn’t academia. His words are all about slavery to sin and freedom in Him; it’s a matter of life and death! Jesus sets us free from slavery to sin and death. That’s why He entered this world as a baby, suffered and died, and was raised on the third day. He died and rose again to save us from the devil’s tyranny – to save us from our sin which leads to death. So, when you read or hear the phrase “the truth will set you free,” remember that it’s all about Jesus and what He’s done to save us!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, You are the Truth which sets us free from slavery to sin. We were under the power of the devil and our end was eternal death. But in Your great love for us, You took our place, suffering the judgment which we deserve. Thank You for redeeming us with Your blood and thereby freeing us from sin’s hold on us. Amen.