



## International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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### **John 8:31-38 Study Hints for Discussion**

#### **[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#)**

are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

#### **1. What is a disciple? How did Jesus describe a true disciple of His?**

A disciple is a learner or student, who often learns by hearing, seeing, and doing. A true disciple of Jesus believes in Him and continues in His word. A true disciple of Jesus continues in His word by continuing to use the means available (hopefully having a Bible available, if possible) to learn what Jesus did and taught, and then obeying Jesus’ commands and doing what Jesus taught.

#### **2. If you are a true disciple of Jesus, what will be the result?**

A true disciple of Jesus will know the truth (in addition to Jesus teaching and showing the truth, Jesus said He is the truth), and the truth of Jesus will make them free—free from slavery to sin.

### **3. How is Jesus teaching in these verses often misunderstood?**

Some think they will be set free in some sense or bring freedom to someone by knowing and telling truths, whether they have any relationship to Jesus and the Bible or not. To learn the truth about your condition, does not always free you. As a sinner or immoral person, learning and knowing the truth that you are a sinner or immoral person does not free you from being a sinner or immoral person.

### **4. What kind of slavery was Jesus talking about? How does a person become that type of slave?**

Jesus was talking about slavery to sin and immoral, ungodly thoughts and actions—not physical slavery. A person who commits or practices sin is enslaved to sin. The more they practice sinning, the more enslaved they become. The more enslaved they become, the more they practice sinning. [Jesus was not referring to the person who believes in Him and who practices true discipleship: sin is the exception to the rule of their lives or practices, the Lord being their Helper.]

## **5. Who can free us from the slavery Jesus talked about and how did Jesus describe that freedom?**

Only Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, can free us from slavery to sin. Jesus, who is the truth, uses the truth of His word to free us from sin. As Jesus' true disciples, when we prayerfully continue in His word, the Holy Spirit uses the truth of His word to help us live pleasing to the God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. True freedom involves loving God and others as Jesus loved us instead of loving sin. There is a place for God's word in us and we prayerfully seek to do what we have learned from the Father and the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit—sin is not the direction of our lives for we are following Jesus.

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