

Misplaced Confidence and True Freedom

Text: John 8:31–47

Theme: Placing Confidence in Jesus, Not Ourselves

OPENING QUESTION

Have you ever had a moment where you were 100% confident in something—only to find out you were completely wrong? What happened, and how did it make you feel?

READ TOGETHER

Read John 8:31–47 aloud as a group.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Danger of Misplaced Confidence

- In the teaching, the speaker compares a hotel reservation mistake to a deeper spiritual issue—misplaced confidence.

Q: What are some modern-day “spiritual reservations” we place our confidence in that might not actually hold up before God?

- The Jewish audience placed their confidence in:
 - **Heritage** (“We are Abraham’s descendants”)
 - **Spiritual identity** (“Abraham is our father”)
 - **Moral standing** (“We are not illegitimate children”)

Q: Which of these three (heritage, spirituality, morality) are you most tempted to put your confidence in? Why?

2. Real Discipleship and True Freedom

Jesus says, *“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* (v. 31–32)

Q: What does Jesus say qualifies someone as a true disciple?

Q: How does Jesus define the kind of freedom he offers?

- The group in the passage didn’t recognize their spiritual slavery because of their religious background.

Q: Why is it so easy to miss our own need for spiritual freedom?

3. What About Us?

- The message identified some things we might wrongly rely on:
 - Saying a prayer as a child
 - Church attendance
 - Baptism or volunteer work
 - Morality checklists

Q: Have you ever found yourself relying on any of these for your sense of being “okay” with God?

Q: How can we tell when our confidence is misplaced—even in good things?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a few minutes in silence for personal reflection or journaling.

Ask yourself:

“Where is my confidence rooted? Is it truly in Jesus and his rescue—or in something I’ve done?”

Then share (as you’re comfortable):

Q: What helps *correct* misplaced confidence in your life when it starts to creep in?

APPLICATION: SIGNS OF Healthy Confidence

The speaker mentioned that **gratitude** is a natural response to rightly placed confidence in Jesus.

Q: When was the last time you felt truly thankful for your salvation?

Q: How might a growing posture of gratitude affect how you live your everyday life, including how you serve, worship, and relate to others?

Challenge for the Week:

Ask God to show you where your confidence might be misplaced—and take 5 minutes each day to thank Him specifically for how Jesus has set you free.

CLOSING PRAYER PROMPTS

- Thank God for the rescue he has provided through Jesus.
- Ask for help to hold to Jesus’ teaching and to live as true disciples.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas of misplaced confidence.
- Pray for a deepening gratitude that shapes every part of your life.