

Title: The Winning Team - John 8:31-47

Read:

³¹⁻³²Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you."

³³Surprised, they said, "But we're descendants of Abraham. We've never been slaves to anyone. How can you say, 'The truth will free you'?" ³⁴⁻³⁸Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave. A slave is a transient, who can't come and go at will. The Son, though, has an established position, the run of the house. So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through. I know you are Abraham's descendants. But I also know that you are trying to kill me because my message hasn't yet penetrated your thick skulls. I'm talking about things I have seen while keeping company with the Father, and you just go on doing what you have heard from your father." ³⁹⁻⁴¹They were indignant. "Our father is Abraham!" Jesus said, "If you were Abraham's children, you would have been doing the things Abraham did. And yet here you are trying to kill me, a man who has spoken to you the truth he got straight from God! Abraham never did that sort of thing. You persist in repeating the works of your father." They said, "We're not bastards. We have a legitimate father: the one and only God." ⁴²⁻⁴⁷"If God were your father," said Jesus, "you would love me, for I came from God and arrived here. I didn't come on my own. He sent me. Why can't you understand one word I say? Here's why: You can't handle it. You're from your father, the Devil, and all you want to do is please him. He was a killer from the very start. He couldn't stand the truth because there wasn't a shred of truth in him. When the Liar speaks, he makes it up out of his lying nature and fills the world with lies. I arrive on the scene, tell you the plain truth, and you refuse to have a thing to do with me. Can any one of you convict me of a single misleading word, a single sinful act? But if I'm telling the truth, why don't you believe me? Anyone on God's side listens to God's words. This is why you're not listening—because you're not on God's side."

Think:

Do you enjoy watching a game of football? Or maybe basketball is your game. Either way, whenever you watch a game with two teams, you cheer for one or the other. If you're not cheering for one side then you must be cheering for the other. That's pretty much what Jesus is saying to this bunch of guys here. He is saying, from what I can see, you guys are not cheering for God, so if you are not cheering for God, then you must be on the Devils side. It's obvious to Jesus, because, if you are cheering for God, if you are on God's side, then that can be seen in the way you act. It can be seen in the way you treat people, it can be seen in the way you spend your time, it can be seen in the very way you live your life. And if it can't be seen, then you must be on the other side from God. It doesn't mean that you are running around murdering people, it doesn't mean that you are a horrible person. It simply means that you have chosen to separate yourself from God. And as we know if you choose that on this Earth, then God will honour your choice into eternity. As for me and my mates, we want to be on God's team on this Earth and for the rest of time. Now that's the winning team.

Pray:

Hey, I have made a massive assumption that you have chosen to be on the winning team. If you haven't and want to accept Jesus as your captain, your friend, your saviour, then let's do it now. Repeat this prayer after me, to ask Jesus to be your saviour.

"Father, I know that I have been selfish, and the wrong things I have done have separated me from you. I am really sorry, and I want to turn away from all that stuff and follow you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule, and reign, in my heart, from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit, to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

Action:

Wow, if you said that prayer for the first time, now find someone who knows Jesus and tell them what you have done. Heck you can even email us at podcast@aftershock.org.uk. Bye for now.