

DUST, leaving sin behind... was a sermon I thought would be a one-off and somehow turned into a 3 part series sandwiched around Mike Haas's awesome teaching on Go and Do Likewise. Mike's message, a pro-life Kingdom challenge to live the Gospel, to make it part of our everyday life, I think actually fits perfectly in this "unplanned" series and what God is urging us to believe with all our hearts. That He truly intends His sons and daughters to live a life totally free to pursue Him with all we are...with all He has made us to be.

To go and do likewise runs parallel to the command to **go and sin no more...** both send us out into the world to change it... by a God who loves us and sets us free.

Let's Pray!

So Far...

- Accusation is the currency of the enemy.
- Who do you see when the stones of accusations fly? Jesus or the enemy?
Whose words do you believe?
- To look at Jesus as someone to cast the first stone is to have a warped idea of who God is.
- The power of the enemy is his lies. If you remove the lies, you remove his power over you.
- Jesus is not here to condemn us; He's here to free us.

Did you read Chapter 8? What did the Holy Spirit reveal? Give people a chance to reply

Jesus makes some bold statements in this passage, proclamations that give us insight to how to go and sin no more. Here are 7 statements.

1. I am the light of the world, verse 12:

Jesus returns to his teaching of the multitude in the Temple, by saying "I am the light of the world"... this was the very morning that the four great lamps of the court in the Temple (which were called "The light of the world" were being extinguished after being kept lit for the entire week of the Feast of Tabernacles).

I am the light of the world...those that follow (to be in the same way with, implies discipleship) Him do not walk in darkness (obscurity) ...they see where they need to go and how to walk that path...and they will be KNOWN! We come out of darkness exposed but redeemed, revealed but restored...His light brings life. ***Walking in the light helps us recognize sin and walk away from it.***

2. If you know me, you know the Father, verse 19:

Jesus is establishing an entry point to walking in freedom from sin... knowing the Father through His son who would be the Messiah for the world. He answers the taunting crowd trying to catch Him in blasphemy (and revealing theirs) with the truth of who He is. Knowing Jesus reveals the Father, His purpose, message and plan. **Knowing who we are**, our identity in Christ, understanding our roles as sons and daughters, helps us walk in freedom from sin.

Romans 8:15-16

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

No longer slaves...to anything...knowing God frees us!

3. I am not of this world, verse 23:

Jesus is proclaiming His divinity...the Greek word for world here is *kosmos*, it means arrangement, order, government. Jesus states that...I am so much bigger than what this world represents...it's order, the way things run...what it can offer. I am above its constraints and its limitations. I am bigger than its sin and more powerful than anything of this world. Jesus brings a Kingdom perspective to freedom.

John 3:31

The One who comes from above is above all. The one who is from the earth belongs to the earth and speaks as one from the earth. The One who comes from heaven is above all.

Someone who is above the world system can free us from that system, empower us to go and sin no more.

4. I am under authority, verse 28:

Jesus states that moves under His Father's authority and that His words, His actions....everything He does come from the things His Father has taught Him. If we want freedom to go and sin no more we need to be under the same authority and become more and more...teachable.

Titus 2:11-12

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men. (12) Training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age"

Sin has huge consequences... it leads to a hard heart, slavery and loss intimacy with Father God. Thankfully God's great grace trains us to renounce (deny, refuse, reject, turn away from) a life of slavery to live a life of outrageous freedom. His grace enables a life of self-control (sound mind), upright (agreeable to living right) and God-focused purity.

To renounce something is to say that it no longer has a claim on you

Romans 6:6

*We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might **lose its power (be destroyed, render useless)** in our lives. We are **no longer (no further or ever again)** slaves to sin.*

I want a life like that...don't you? Don't you want to live this way? We can! God's grace trains us to live this way...to go and sin no more!

5. I'm not alone and I please the Father

Why is this statement huge? Because everything God does is through relationship...even the battle against sin and the affects of sin. God is in the battle with us, not leaving us as orphans or alone and taking delight in us.

Psalm 149:4

For the LORD takes pleasure (set affection on, approve and delight) in his people; he adorns (make gleam, boasts) the humble with salvation.

Colossians 1:10

"So that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Our goal is to please the Father, not to earn love but because we love Him. This enables us to walk as He would want His Children to walk.

6. I am truth, I am freedom, verses 31-38

*So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you **abide (remain, stay, stand)** in my word, you are truly my disciples, (32) and you will know the truth, and the **truth will set you free.**"*

If you abide in my word...you are true **disciples (student, follower; a committed learner and follower, someone who attaches themselves to another)**, knowing the truth that sets you free.

In verse 31, the concept of a disciple takes on a larger meaning and concept. Instead of being chosen by Jesus, the disciple is one who "continues in His word." The disciple is not bound to the physical presence of Jesus but simply by abiding...staying, living in and standing on His word!

Who is your master? Who are you giving power to? Who are you allowing to condemn you? Whose house do you belong to? Verse 34-35

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. (35) The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

He who practices sin is a **slave (one who gives himself up to another's will)** to sin (makes it hard to go and sin no more if sin is your master). A slave has no permanent place in the family, **but a son belongs to it forever.**

Jesus has the answer....Verse 36

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

If the Son sets you **free (liberate, that is to exempt from moral, ceremonial or mortal liability)**, you are **free (one who ceases to be a slave, unrestrained, free to come and go as you please)** indeed.

Free sons and daughters believe the words of the Father over the words of the enemy. His words need to find a place in us!

7. When God's your Father, loving isn't an issue, verse 42-43

There is a level of freedom that comes when knowing the Father increases in our life. Love comes from knowing Him, it's not about the law...it's about love. Love supplies the power to leave sin in the dust. Intimacy with the Father is the relational power to walk free.

John 14:15

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Love motivates us...if we love God with everything we are...we will not have an issue with obeying and following His ways. The way we walk indicates who has our heart and who's word we're listening to...whose words have found a place in our spirit.

How do we shake the dust of sin off us?

We cannot live without sin on our own, but through Christ Jesus we can. The key is to walk in the Spirit and being obedient to the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16

"I say then: Walk (be occupied with) in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

If we do this then it is written quite clearly what will happen. We will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. And if we don't fulfill the lust of the flesh – the temptation to sin – then we haven't sinned!

Hebrews 12:1

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

**This Scripture tells us we can cast sin off of us! That it is a weight we can rid ourselves of!
How? Verse 2...**

"looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Looking to Jesus... Founder = chief leader: - author, captain, prince...the one who makes our faith perfect!

Jesus wants these words to find a place...

"Neither do I condemn you." How is this possible? Because Jesus has been condemned in your place, and my place. If you have repented...ALL your guilt has been removed. No stone of God's righteous wrath will crush you because Jesus was crushed for your iniquities.