

GOSPEL PEARLS

The truth makes us free

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To the Jews who believed in him Jesus said: 'If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples, you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free. They answered, 'We are descended from Abraham and we have never been the slaves of anyone; what do you mean, "You will be made free"?' Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, everyone who commits sin is a slave. Now the slave's place in the house is not assured, but the son's place is assured. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descended from Abraham; but in spite of that you want to kill me because nothing I say has penetrated into you. What I, for my part, speak of is what I have seen with my Father; but you, you put into action the lessons learnt from your father.' They repeated, 'Our father is Abraham.' Jesus said to them: 'If you were Abraham's children, you would do as Abraham did. As it is, you want to kill me when I tell you the truth as I have learnt it from God; that is not what Abraham did. What you are doing is what your father does.' 'We were not born of prostitution,' they went on 'we have one father: God.' Jesus answered: 'If God were your father, you would love me, since I have come here from God; yes, I have come from him; not that I came because I chose, no, I was sent, and by him.' (John 8, 31-42)

It is not so much being descended from Abraham that frees and saves but faith in Jesus, which implies, the firm personal will to love and follow Him. This is the only way Jesus can free us from sin, the source of all human slavery. And there is no true freedom without truth. In fact, truth comes before freedom. Without it, there is not true freedom. Ask yourself sincerely if you are convinced that sin takes away your freedom, as Jesus says. Or do you reveal by your actions that you really think sin makes you free?