



Jesus was a freedom fighter. He liberated people from the powers of darkness so they could become who they were created to be. So if Jesus is our rabbi, we need to be just as committed to the ministry of helping people claim “no longer slaves” status. This series explores what that looks like.

Week 3: No Longer Slaves... “to the Seduction of Deception” (Rick Atchley – 10/13/24)

1. **Proverbs 4:23** says, “**Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.**”, and Rick added, “People behave like they behave because they believe what they believe.” Share how we see this reality in the small and major parts of life.
2. In Jesus’ longest discussion concerning the devil in all of the gospels, he refers to Satan as “the father of lies.” **Read John 8:44 together.** How does Jesus’s description confirm or adjust your perception of who the devil is and what is primary strategy is? What are some of his most effective lies?
3. Jesus not only speaks the truth, but He *is* the truth. Jesus not only shows the way, but He *is* the way. Therefore, is it possible to know Christ’s words, but still be enslaved because we don’t live his way? If so, what are some examples? Follow up: Do we truly know his words if our behavior has not changed?
4. Rick said, “**We speak clarity and charity in Jesus’ name.**” How do we do that well? Can you share examples when you have done that well and times when you have done that poorly? Take time to think of a person in your life God might be leading you to speak to – with clarity and charity in Jesus’ name.
5. As Christians, it’s easy for us to talk about how *others* are living lies, but it is hard for us to see it within. What are ways God opens our eyes to truth, even if we’ve been following him for years?
6. Discuss with your group the primary ways followers of Christ can write the truth of Christ and Scripture into their hearts (For example: Scripture memorization). Take a moment to discuss with each other how diligent you have or have not been in practicing those methods lately. As a group, choose a practice/rhythm for writing God’s truth in your hearts, and commit to doing the practice daily until you meet again.

