liberation spirituality
introduction: liberation theology
for slides & other resources from me: www.brianmclaren.net
to get involved: www.convergenceus.org
JESUS THE LIBERATOR
Jon Sobrino

A Historical-Theological Reading of Jesus of Nazareth
my encounter with liberation theology: liberal! marxist! dangerous! biblical! Christ-centered! liberating!
Personal Experience:
Coalition of Immokalee Workers

http://www.brianmclaren.net/cgi-bin/mt3/mt-search.cgi?IncludeBlogs=2&search=immokalee

http://brianmclaren.net/archives/blog/were-connected-by-what-we-eat.html
**Conventional View**

**Emerging View**

**The Human Situation:** What is the story that we find ourselves in?

**God created the world as perfect,** but our primal ancestors, Adam and Eve, did not maintain the absolute perfection demanded by God, God has irrevocably determined that the entire universe and all it contains will be destroyed, and the souls of all human beings – except for those specifically exempted – will be forever punished for their imperfection in hell.

**Basic Questions:** What questions did Jesus come to answer?

Since everyone is doomed to hell, Jesus seeks to answer these questions:

- How can individuals be saved from eternal punishment in hell and instead go to heaven after they die?
- How can God help individuals be happy and successful until then?

Since the human race is in such desperate trouble, Jesus seeks to answer this question:

- What must be done about the mess we're in? The mess refers both to the general human condition and its specific outworking among his contemporaries: living under domination by the Roman empire, and divided into various competing sects.

**Jesus' message:**

How did Jesus respond to the crisis?

Jesus says, in essence, "If you want to be among those specifically qualified to escape being forever punished for your sins in hell, you must repent of your individual sins and believe that my Father punished me on the cross so He won't have to punish you in hell. Only if you believe this will you go to heaven when everyone else is banished to hell."

This is the good news.

1. Of course, there are many modern western non-religious ontologies and framing stories too, plus Eastern ontologies and framing stories – both religious and irreligious.

2. This reflects a Calvinistic Evangelical protestant version of the message. The popular Roman Catholic version might say, "You must believe in the teachings of the church and follow its instructions, especially those regarding sacraments." The popular mainline or liberal Protestant
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Emerging View

God created the world as good, but human beings – as individuals, and as groups – have rebelled against God and filled the world with evil and injustice like a terrible disease. God wants to save humanity and heal it from its sickness, but humanity is hopelessly lost and confused, like sheep without a shepherd, wandering farther and farther into lostness and danger. Left to themselves, human beings will spiral downward in sickness and evil.

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how liberation spirituality
nurtures and is nurtured by
liberation theology
1. God is on the side of the oppressed, so we are patient and confident.

2. Our goal is to win our oppressors over to our side, not to defeat them, so we are gentle, respectful, and bold.

3. What we wish to see in the world “out there” must be experienced first in the world “in here,” so we do our inner work.
greed to generosity
fear to courage
panic to serenity
anger to understanding
revenge to forgiveness
vilification to compassion
domination to service
self-indulgence to self-control
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Joining God in the healing of the world, beginning with myself.
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2 This is the good news.

Jesus says, in essence, “Other people and groups—including your own religious leaders— are leading you farther and farther astray. I have been sent by God with this good news—that God loves humanity, even in its lostness and sin. God graciously invites everyone and anyone to question and reject what they have been told and instead follow a new path. Trust me and become my disciple, and you will be transformed, and you will participate in the transformation of the world, which is possible, beginning right now.”

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part 1: personal liberation
liberation spirituality

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THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.
10. Thou shalt not covet.

DEDICATION

I AM the LORD thy God.
Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
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the beatitudes: internal liberation
blessed
to be envied
i want to be like them when i grow up
that’s the identity i want
that’s who i want to be
desire & being

liberation spirituality
I. liberation spirituality

blessed are the rich vs.

blessed are

... the poor

... those with a spirit like

the poor

... those in solidarity with

the poor
blessed are … the poor (in spirit) for the kingdom of heaven is (already) theirs
blessed are the winners, victors, those who kill vs.

... those who mourn

... those who have lost a loved one

... the losers
blessed are they who mourn for they shall receive comfort
blessed are the aggressive, the violent, the dominant vs.
blessed are … the gentle … the meek … the nonviolent … the kind

3. liberation spirituality
blessed are the gentle for they shall inherit the earth
blessed are those who crave power, luxury, & comfort vs.
blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice
... empowerment-hungry
... common-good-thirsty
... equity-starved
blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice for they shall be satisfied
blessed are the exacting, the merciless, the deal-makers, the vengeful vs.

blessed are the merciful

... non-accusatory

... forgiving

... grace-givers
blessed are the merciful
for they’ll receive mercy
6. liberation spirituality

blessed are the playboys, the self-indulgent, the tricky vs.
blessed are the pure in heart
... focused on goodness
... self-disciplined
... genuine
l procession spirituality
blessed are
the pure in heart
for they shall see God.
blessed are the warriors, the conquerors, the intimidators
vs.

blessed are the peacemakers

... conflict transformers
... win/win reconcilers
... harmonizers
IT IS ONLY WHEN A MOSQUITO LANDS ON YOUR TESTICLES THAT YOU REALIZE

THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS WITHOUT USING VIOLENCE
blessed are the peacemakers for they’ll be called children of God.
blessed are the moral police, the persecutors, the safe & privileged vs.

blessed are they who are persecuted for justice

... misunderstood sages & saints

... vilified activists
blessed are they who are persecuted for justice for the kingdom of heaven is (already) theirs.
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they’ll receive comfort. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful
for they’ll receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart
for they shall see God
Blessed are the peacemakers
for they’ll be called children of God
Blessed are they who are persecuted for justice ...

For the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
You are the salt of the earth.

You are the light of the world.

Let your light shine for everyone!
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liberation spirituality

part 2: inter-personal liberation
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Galatians 5
For freedom [liberation] Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

7 You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? … I wish those who unsettle you would castrate themselves!
Jesus and Paul …

Friends not enemies.

Trailblazer & trouble-shooter

Local Inventer & Global Disseminator/Translator

Movement leader & Institutionalizer
For you were called to freedom [liberation], brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.

For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.
FLESH: Self-indulgent desires based on the assumption that I am disconnected from my neighbor (and God)

FLESH: “Reptilian,” reactive, uncontrolled, or un-evolved desires, drawing from humanity at its worst … (feeding frenzy)

FLESH: Fear-driven, rivalrous, competitive, self-sabotaging, suicidal desires that turn siblings/neighbors into rivals/enemies.

SPIRIT: Pure desire that draws me toward my neighbor in love.

SPIRIT: The transforming call to evolve, develop, grow, mature into a higher form of humanity, expressing the full image of God.

SPIRIT: Faith-driven, harmonious, cooperative, fruitful, life-giving Desire that turns rivals/enemies into siblings/neighbors.
FLESH: One versus Other
Bondage

SPIRIT: One another
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.
fornication,
impurity,
licentiousness,
idolatry,
sorcery,
enmities,
strife,
jealousy,
anger,
quarrels,
dissensions,
factions,
envy,
drunkenness,
carousing, etc.

love,
joy,
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mutual enslavement vs. mutual liberation
Love that includes and transcends Wisdom & Law.

Slavery to “knowledge that puffs up.”

Wisdom that includes and transcends Law.

Slavery to law, oppressive moralism, moralistic elites

Law to liberate from this slavery (10 plagues, 10 X)

Slavery to “flesh” - addiction, self-destructive impulses, self-sabotaging reactions
My life with the Spirit …

a high school retreat (love)
the entry of a new desire (want vs. ought)

“speaking in tongues” (law)
adventures in missing the point

repeated return to the inner way of love
Practicing being filled …
Receptivity …
Cracks (in and out) …
fruit …
I can do nothing … I can do all things …
Galatians 5
For freedom [liberation] Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

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For freedom [liberation] Christ has set us free…

For you were called to freedom [liberation], brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.
I slept and dreamed that life was joy.

I woke and learned that life was service.

And then I served, so now I know ...

Service is joy.
liberation spirituality
liberation spirituality
part 3: institutional liberation
Communities

Institutions

Movements
Communities

“THE PRINCIPALITIES & POWERS”
“POSSESSED”

Institutions  Movements
We need a powerful spiritual movement that will make appropriate proposals and demands to our institutions: congregational, denominational, political, cultural.

... so they can have a good, healthy, life-giving spirit.
Psalm 133

A Song of Ascents.
1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.
3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life for evermore.
Let us celebrate holy conviviality!
Time to be, live, slow down, relax together.
Non-utilitarian relationships.
Community is the treasure.
Psalm 134
A Song of Ascents.
1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who stand by night in the house of the Lord!
2 Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord.
3 May the Lord, maker of heaven and earth, bless you from Zion.
institutional liberation
Psalm 134
Let us nurture and appreciate holy places of togetherness!
Temples (institutions) matter!
Psalm 135
1 Praise the Lord!
   Praise the name of the Lord;
   give praise, O servants of the Lord,
2 you that stand in the house of the Lord,
   in the courts of the house of our God.
3 Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;
   sing to his name, for he is gracious.
4 For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself,
   Israel as his own possession.
5 For I know that the Lord is great;
   our Lord is above all gods.
6 Whatever the Lord pleases he does,
   in heaven and on earth,
   in the seas and all deeps.
7 He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth;
   he makes lightnings for the rain
   and brings out the wind from his storehouses.
8 He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,
   both human beings and animals;
9 he sent signs and wonders
   into your midst, O Egypt,
   against Pharaoh and all his servants.
10 He struck down many nations
   and killed mighty kings—
11 Sihon, king of the Amorites,
   and Og, king of Bashan,
   and all the kingdoms of Canaan—
12 and gave their land as a heritage,
   a heritage to his people Israel.
13 Your name, O Lord, endures for ever, 
your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages.
14 For the Lord will vindicate his people, 
and have compassion on his servants.
15 The idols of the nations are silver and gold, 
the work of human hands.
16 They have mouths, but they do not speak; 
they have eyes, but they do not see;
17 they have ears, but they do not hear, 
and there is no breath in their mouths.
18 Those who make them 
and all who trust them 
shall become like them.
19 O house of Israel, bless the Lord!
O house of Aaron, bless the Lord!
20 O house of Levi, bless the Lord!
You that fear the Lord, bless the Lord!
21 Blessed be the Lord from Zion, 
he who resides in Jerusalem.
institutional liberation
Psalm 135
Let us distinguish holy and unholy (healthy and unhealthy) togetherness. Institutions can become toxic, septic, dangerous, “possessed.”
unholy togetherness

domination: us over them
revolution: us versus them
purification: us versus some of us
isolation: us apart from them
victimization: us in spite of them
competition: us as rivals with them
holy and unholy togetherness

us over them
us versus them
us versus some of us
us apart from them
us in spite of them
us as rivals with them

reconciliation: us in service of them
some of us for all of us
(one-another: there is no them!)
A story about a Bible study after 9/11 ...

What does this mean for people of privilege?
How are we dealing with privilege?
old social and institutional Darwinism: survival of the fittest

an emerging understanding: survival of the most adaptive and cooperative
holy togetherness

us in service of them
some of us for all of us
(there is no them!)

a poem ...
Psalm 136
1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
2 O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
3 O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
4 who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
5 who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
6 who spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
7 who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
8 the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
9 the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
10 who struck Egypt through their firstborn,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
11 and brought Israel out from among them,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
12 with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
13 who divided the Red Sea* in two,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
14 and made Israel pass through the midst of it,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
15 but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,*
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
16 who led his people through the wilderness,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
17 who struck down great kings,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;
18 and killed famous kings,
   for his steadfast love endures for ever;
19 Sihon, king of the Amorites,
   for his steadfast love endures for ever;
20 and Og, king of Bashan,
   for his steadfast love endures for ever;
21 and gave their land as a heritage,
   for his steadfast love endures for ever;
22 a heritage to his servant Israel,
   for his steadfast love endures for ever.
23 It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
   for his steadfast love endures for ever;
24 and rescued us from our foes,
   for his steadfast love endures for ever;
25 who gives food to all flesh,
   for his steadfast love endures for ever.
26 O give thanks to the God of heaven,
   for his steadfast love endures for ever.
institutional liberation
Psalm 136

Our story isn’t over. Let’s cherish/salvage our treasures, jettison our baggage, and move forward with confidence in God’s steadfast love.

Remember the wheat & tares.
how can we develop a healthy liberation spirituality in our various institutions?
alignment of ...

message

liturgy

music

rituals (meaning)

structure

training

schedule

architecture/design (interior, landscape)

budget

everything!
sometimes, the collapse/destruction of our temples (institutions) isn’t the worst thing.
liberation spirituality
part 4: cultural liberation
for slides & other resources from me: www.brianmclaren.net
to get involved: www.convergenceus.org
Acts 2

2When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.
1. Fire (Passion)

- burning bush?
- pillar of fire?
- Solomon’s Shekinah?
- Elijah’s fire?
All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’
Tongues (diversity) …

Isaiah’s prophecy of conquest, doom?

Reversal of Babel?
14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. 16No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 17 “In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’"
All flesh ... all people ... no exceptions! God speaks everyone’s language.
22 ‘You that are Israelites,* listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth,* a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— 23this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. 24But God raised him up, having freed him from death,* because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 25For David says concerning him,  
“I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.  
27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
28 You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

29 ‘Fellow Israelites,* I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. 31Foreseeing this, David* spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah,* saying,  
“He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

32This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. 33Being therefore exalted at* the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. 34For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,  
“The Lord said to my Lord,  
‘Sit at my right hand,  
35 until I make your enemies your footstool.’ ”

36Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah,* this Jesus whom you crucified.’
3. Nonviolence

You killed him.
God raised him.
It’s time to repent of your violent ways.
37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers,* what should we do?’ 38Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ 40And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save [liberate] yourselves from this corrupt generation.’
Repent of your violent ways and receive the gift of the Holy (NonViolent) Spirit to be liberated from this violent generation.
So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.
fire/passion
tongues/diversity
nonviolence/spirituality
Lessons from the last election:

1. Fear & anger trump reason.
2. Confidence/Boldness trumps record.
4. Simplicity/clarity trumps complexity.
5. Belonging/tribe trumps fragmentation.
6. Criticism/attack is a form of attention.
7. People like a fighter.
Lessons for a movement of liberation spirituality:

1. Address fears with joy, faith, hope, fun.
2. Speak with Confidence/Boldness.
3. Heal shame with acceptance, understanding, welcome, empathy.
4. Hone your message to grand, simple, clear, repeatable essentials.
5. Invite people into spaces of belonging.
6. Use criticism to clarify your message.
7. People like the resilient.
Can you imagine a spiritual movement that captures the imagination of the young and addresses the crises we face?
for slides & other resources from me: www.brianmclaren.net
to get involved: www.convergenceus.org
liberation spirituality
sermon: but first it will make you mad
21 Again he said to them, ‘I am going away, and you will search for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.’ 22Then the Jews said, ‘Is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by saying, “Where I am going, you cannot come”? ’ 23He said to them, ‘You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. 24I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he.’ 25They said to him, ‘Who are you?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Why do I speak to you at all?* 26I have much to say about you and much to condemn; but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.’ 27They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father. 28So Jesus said, ‘When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he,* and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. 29And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him.’ 30As he was saying these things, many believed in him. 31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’
33 They answered him, ‘We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, “You will be made free”? ’

34 Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.'
37 I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. 38 I declare what I have seen in the Father’s presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.”

39 They answered him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing* what Abraham did, 40 but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. 41 You are indeed doing what your father does.’ They said to him, ‘We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself.’ 42 Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word. 44 You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? 47 Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God.’
48 The Jews answered him, ‘Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?’ 49 Jesus answered, ‘I do not have a demon; but I honour my Father, and you dishonour me. 50 Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and he is the judge. 51 Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death.’ 52 The Jews said to him, ‘Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, “Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.”’ 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?’ 54 Jesus answered, ‘If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, “He is our God”, though you do not know him. But I know him; if I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. 56 Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad.’ 57 Then the Jews said to him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?’* 58 Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.’ 59 So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.
The truth will set you free … but first it will make you mad.

“Why did she have to be so nice?”
“I’m having breakfast with a heretic!”
“If people stay at the table, I know I can trust them.”

“I’d like to punch him in the face.”
“I threw your book across the room.”
It will make you mad.

It will make others mad.

Anger is to the soul what pain is to the body.

It demands action, reaction, response.
Soren Kierkegaard:
It is a most difficult thing to liberate a person who is held in the grip of an illusion.

Hide behind a bush …

What’s going on here? Jesus - hearing on a sabbath calling out a woman turning the tables
After it makes you mad, if you don’t leave the table, it will set you free.