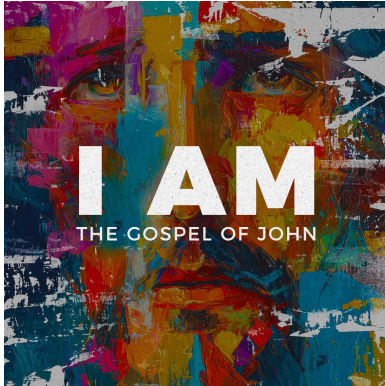


Title: What We Make Room For

Series: I Am

Speaker: Kevin Sneed

Date: August 30, 2026



Key Texts: John 8:30-59, John 10:10, Colossians 1:15-20, Romans 12:1-2

Introduction

In this passage, Jesus tells a group of Jewish believers that following him means holding onto his teaching. This is the way to know his truth and to experience genuine freedom. When they object to his teaching, insisting that they have never been enslaved, Jesus reveals that the slavery he is talking about is not physical; it is the quiet grip that sin and lies can have on a person from the inside. Jesus invites us to consider not just what we believe *about* him, but whether we are actually building our lives *on* him - the great “I Am”

and the foundation of all existence.

Icebreaker:

What’s the last thing you Googled mid-conversation, or even mid-argument, because you weren’t sure you were right?

Discussion Questions

1. Read **John 8:30-59** aloud. Begin to jot down some initial observations around these two questions: What do you notice or learn about God in this passage? What do you notice or learn about humanity?
2. Read **John 8:31-32** again. What do these verses teach us about discipleship to Jesus? Why is it significant that Jesus is speaking to people who already believe in Him?
3. Re-visit **John 8:33-36**. Jesus’ teaching presupposes that the people he is addressing are not free, even though they insist they are. The slavery Jesus is talking about isn’t the kind you can see; it operates beneath the surface. What stands out to you about the way that Jesus redefines slavery? Where might you see or even personally experience this slavery in subtle ways today (i.e. habits, mindsets, fears that quietly control us without even realizing it)?

4. Re-visit **John 8:3-37**. The crowd identifies Abraham's children, yet Jesus reveals a contradiction between who they say they are and how they are living. Jesus presents the contrast between truth, which leads to life, and lies, which lead to death. Take a moment to read **John 10:10** and **Colossians 1:15-20**. What do we learn about the devil in these passages? What do we learn about God and what he desires for his people?
5. In John 8:37, Jesus addresses the way that people have crowded out the truth of God. Kevin reminded us that the primary tactic that the devil uses to steal, kill, and destroy is deception. He distorts Jesus' truth in subtle ways that, over time, begin to shape our mental maps. If we hold onto those lies, we come to think they are true, and over time they will enslave us. However, Kevin also reminded us that the devil is not as powerful as God, and that we have ultimate freedom over what we allow our minds to dwell on. Read **Romans 12:1-2** and **Philippians 4:8**. What are some lies that you have been believing about yourself that you want to let go of? On the other hand, how have you experienced God's truth bringing freedom from lies you once believed?

Key Takeaways

- When Jesus says "I Am," he is not merely claiming to be God. He is revealing that he is existence itself - the truth, the foundation of reality, beyond time and space, the one in whom all creation is held together. Jesus is the answer to the question: "What is truth?"
- We can hold reality and non-reality in our minds. We ultimately have freedom over what we allow our minds to dwell on.
- Jesus invites us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1-2). Discipleship is the process of taking the mental maps of Jesus and getting those into our very bodies. The best way to stop believing and living lies is to replace them with God's truth.
- What we feel has little to do with reality. God invites us to know and trust His voice, and to make room for His truth. At the core of truth is love.

Practice: Renewing the Mind

Invite the Lord to reveal to you any lies that you may be believing about yourself or about God. You may find it helpful to share with a close, trusted friend or mentor who can pray with you. Ask God to help you know and believe the truth of who He is and who He says you are.

The best way to stop believing and living into those lies is to replace them with the truth. Spend time this week making room for the truth of God. Consider ways that you can incorporate Scripture into your daily rhythms. Perhaps this looks like spending time in God's Word when you wake up in the morning or before bed, or carrying around a notecard with a few scripture verses on it.