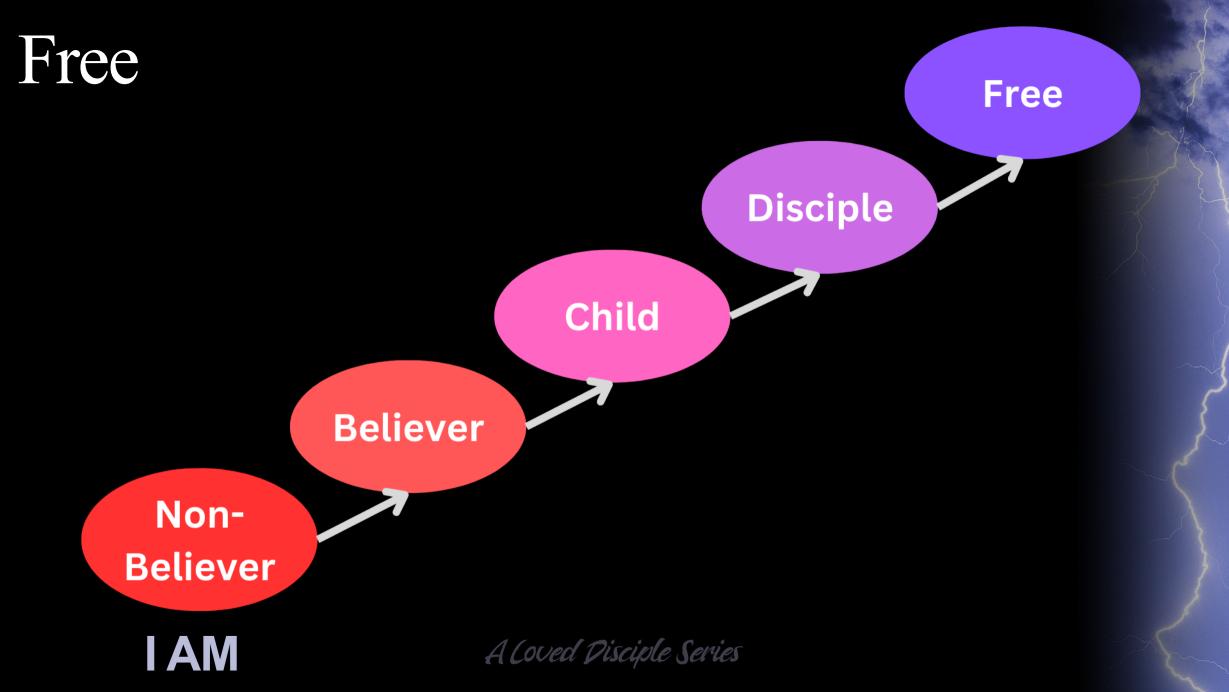


(John 8:31-47 NIV)





³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."



descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"



³⁴Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.



³⁷I know that you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. 381 am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father."



³⁹"Abraham is our father," they answered.



"If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do what Abraham did. 40As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. 41You are doing the works of your own father."



"We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."



⁴²Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. ⁴³Why is my language not clear to you?



Because you are unable to hear what I say. 44You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.



⁴⁵Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! 46Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."



