



Contrary to popular opinion, many of our ancestors were free.

African ancestors who came to America were slaves, but many of them also knew liberty. In spite of outward oppression and hardship, they experienced the inner freedom brought on by a relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

Today in American society a different type of slavery exists. We can allow ourselves to be mastered by materialism, sex, drug use, hatred, despair. But, like our ancestors, we can find inner freedom in Jesus Christ. His message echoes across the landscape of time and penetrates to the heart of our predicament.

Jesus offers a higher reality, one which our forefathers and mothers gained strength from, but one which any person of any race, time period, or social condition can experience and benefit from. This higher reality is not a passive escapism, but an active relationship that empowers us to live responsibly and become agents of change in our families and communities.

Have you received false information about Jesus? Is it worth knowing the truth? To learn about the many African Americans who have followed Jesus, and the many false myths aimed at us, see the feature article "The Truth About Jesus" at EveryStudent.com.

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