

# 1. Walking in Freedom and Liberty

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Sub-title: Moving from Bondage to Liberty

- Today we are beginning our 40 Day Campaign
  - 6 consecutive Sunday messages
  - 6 weekly Small Group meetings
  - 40 days of daily Scripture Declaration & Memorisation (liberty truths)
- All resulting in new levels of freedom & liberty in our lives
  - Freedom from bondages
  - Freedom from fears
  - Freedom from curses
  - Free to fully serve the Lord & one another (1 Peter 2:16, Gal. 5:13)

## 1. Jesus Christ came to set the captives free

**Luke 4:14–19 (NKJV)** *Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. 15 And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. 16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”*

- After 40 days in the wilderness, Jesus came to Nazareth & revealed Himself as the Messiah (the Christ, the promised Deliverer)
- He read a messianic Scripture from Isaiah 61:1-2 & applied it to Himself
- He read a series of statements from Isaiah 61:
  - The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me ...
  - He has anointed me to preach...
  - He has sent me to heal, to proclaim & to set free
    - **to proclaim liberty to the captives...**
    - **to set at liberty those who are oppressed...**
    - **to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.**
- Evidently, liberty for captives starts through preaching & proclaiming

## **2. Proclaim liberty to captives & set at liberty those who are oppressed**

### **a. Proclaim Liberty to the Captives:**

- Question: Captive in, or captive to what?
  - What captivity is Jesus is talking about?
- Firstly, captivity to sin (we must be born again) John 8:34, Rom. 6:16,17
- Captivity to guilt and shame (Heb. 10:2,18)
- Captivity to wrong thoughts, mindsets (strongholds of the mind) 2 Cor. 10:4
- Captivity to fleshly habits, addictions & various vices
- Captivity to cultural and ethnic demands - Romans 12:2
- Captivity to the effects curses
- Captivity to fears, phobias (fear of man, rejection, death) Heb.2:15
- Captivity to poverty

### **b. Set at Liberty those who are Oppressed:**

- What kind of oppression is Jesus talking about?
- Firstly, people are oppressed by the devil Acts 10:38
  - Sickness, demonic oppressions, depression, etc.
- Oppression from the world's systems (Rom. 12:1-2)
  - Pharaoh is gone, but the spirit of Pharaoh is still around. Acts7:19,34

## **3. Proclaim the Acceptable Year of the Lord**

- As part of Jesus debut in Nazareth, He made this big announcement:
- "I am here to proclaim to you the Acceptable Year of the Lord"
  - **(ESV)** ... to proclaim the Year of the Lord's favor
  - **(NirV)** ... to announce the year when he will set his people free
- They knew the Scripture from Isaiah 61:1-2, and they knew what it meant

**Luke 4:19 (AMP) To proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound.]**

- Bible scholars generally agree that Jesus referred to the "Year of Jubilee"
- In the O.T., the Year of Jubilee was a calendar year (every 49 years)
- The Acceptable Year announced by Jesus is not a calendar year, but a period of grace, favour & liberty that:
  - started with His Death, Burial & Resurrection
  - will end at the Second Coming of Christ (Day of Vengeance) Is.61:2)

## a. The Acceptable Year of the Lord, Year of Jubilee, Year of Freedom

- The Dake Annotated Reference Bible:
- “The acceptable year or period typified by the year of jubilee when liberty was proclaimed to all people on the day of atonement (Lev. 25:8–13)”
- “When the atonement of Christ is fully embraced, the sick, sinful, helpless, and needy are restored health, holiness, power, and prosperity, and full dominion over Satan and membership and communion in God’s family”.

- (Hebrew slaves were set free every 7<sup>th</sup> year)
- All slaves were liberated every 50<sup>th</sup> year, and all lands & property was restored to the original owners
- When the trumpet was sounded on the Day of Atonement (day of forgiveness), it ushered in the Year of Jubilee:
  - All slaves set free
  - Every man return to his possessions (Lev. 25:13)

**Leviticus 25:8–10 (NIV)** “*Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. 9 Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. 10 Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan.*”

- When Jesus announced the Acceptable Year of Lord, in His mind, He announced the Year of Jubilee

### 4. Jesus came for the specific purpose of setting people free:

**Mark 10:45 (NirV)** ... *the Son of Man did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others. He came to give his life as the price for setting many people free.*

**Galatians 5:1 (AMP)** *IN [this] freedom Christ has made us free [and completely liberated us]; stand fast then, and do not be hampered and held ensnared and submit again to a yoke of slavery [which you have once put off].*

**Colossians 1:13–14 (NKJV) *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.***

- Notice: ... has delivered us ... (past tense!)

## **5. What does all that mean to me? Where do I start?**

- a. Surrender your life to Jesus Christ, and receive Him as your personal Lord and Saviour
  - The most important deliverance we can experience is forgiveness of our sins, and deliverance from self-rule
- b. Live your life as a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ
  - We can only resist the powers of darkness successfully to the degree of our submission to God and His will for our lives (James 4:7)
- c. Make the truth of God's word the starting point of your deliverance journey
  - Don't start with your problems, start with the answer

**John 8:31–32 (NKJV) *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."***

- Notice the sequence:
  - ... believed Him (faith in Jesus & completed work at Calvary)
  - ... abide in my Word (KJV. continue)
  - ... My disciples indeed (in deed, not just in words)
  - ... you shall know the truth (know intimately, have a revelation)
  - ... the truth shall set you free (truth is the ultimate deliverance force)