

LENT: WEEK 2: JESUS SETS YOU FREE

MONDAY – Jesus sets you free from the Bondage of Sin –
(Captivity)



John 8: 34-36 *Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now, a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*

For someone to be liberated he or she must first have to be bound or imprisoned. The very definition of a captive is one who is confined. That's exactly what we were. We were prisoners held under the bondage of sin. We were held captive by the impulses of sin. We were slaves to the instincts of sin. We had no power to overcome the influence of sin.

Sin was our ruler and it held us captive. In your days of living before Christ, whatever sin wanted that's what sin got. This doesn't mean you were out living a wild lifestyle, though it could, it simply means that the primary authority in your life was your sinful nature. It was in control.

In Romans 6: 12, Paul writes: *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.*

However, when you were born again, something beautiful happened – you got a new master. God gave you a new nature and more importantly filled you with His Holy Spirit so now you are no longer under the control of your sinful nature – you have been set free.

Paul sums it up well in 2 Cor 3:17 *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."* Because the Holy Spirit lives in you, you are free!!



Prayer: Dear Jesus. Thanks for setting us free from sin. You are my master and I long to follow You in every aspect of my life. Free me from anything in my life that still keeps me from loving You and my neighbours. AMEN

TUESDAY – Jesus sets you free from the Penalty of Sin – (Your Eternity)



Romans 6: 21-23 *What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

To be frank, without Christ in our lives, we all had an eternal death sentence. That's right, you and I were on death row. You may not have understood it and probably didn't grasp the gravity of it but that's where we were.

Unfortunately, today many people still don't understand that. Because of our sin, you and I were on a path to be eternally separated from the very presence of God. This was the eternal penalty or liability of our sin.

Thankfully the story doesn't end there. Paul states here the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus. When Jesus set you free, He took

away your death sentence. The penalty you deserved has been removed and you now have eternal life. He literally shifted your eternal destination.

Today you can rejoice because if you have Christ then you have eternal life. You no longer have to pay the penalty for your sin, and you will never be separated from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Put yourself in the hands of Jesus, keep your eyes upon Him, be strong in faith, submit to the Lordship of Jesus and banish sin the moment you know it is becoming a problem.



Prayer: Dear Lord. Thank you for the promise of an eternal life now that you have freed me from sin. AMEN.

WEDNESDAY – Jesus frees you from the Guilt and Shame of Sin –
(Your Vitality)



Psalm 103: 11-12 *For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

Have you ever experienced the feeling of guilt? Have you ever felt shame for things you have done in your past? Have you ever repented but felt like you need to repent again because you feel so bad that you want to make sure God “really forgave you?”

We have all done things that we are ashamed of. Things that we wish we could take back and never do again. We all have the capacity to relive our bad moments questioning why did we do that? However, when you do this all you are doing is creating guilt and shame. This can haunt you and it can cripple you, taking away your capacity to live and develop, which is your vitality.

This is one of the biggest weapons of our enemy Satan:

encouraging you to look back at the shameful moments of your past. When you do you can be overwhelmed by guilt, shame, and condemnation. This will ultimately strip your joy, rob your peace, and destroy your vitality.

The good news is that you have been set free. When you sincerely repented the first time, God forgave you. He removed that sin from you as far as the east is from the west and He doesn't remember it anymore.

If you are forgiven, you are forgiven completely and totally. Sin, shame, guilt - all of it is dealt with when Jesus sets you free. When you understand what Christ has freed you from, it sets the stage for you to live in what Christ has freed you to.



Prayer: Lord, help me not to be dominated by guilt. AMEN

THURSDAY – Jesus gives you The Freedom to Live – (Your Capacity)



John 10: 10-11 *The thief comes only to steal and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd.*

One of the reasons it's so important to understand that you are free from the bondage, penalty and guilt of sin is because it now increases your capacity. Jesus wants to increase your capacity to love, to have joy, to experience peace, and to enjoy life.

He also wants to increase your capacity to have a relationship with your Heavenly Father. This can't happen if you are not free. You cannot have a vibrant, living, loving relationship with God or with anyone else for that matter, if you are holding on to the guilt and shame of your past.

If you remember in the garden when Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from God and their capacity for

a relationship with God was hindered. When Jesus comes and sets you free you don't have to hide anymore. You can now enjoy a healthy relationship with your Heavenly Father and He actually encourages it. James 4: 8 says, "Come near to God and He will come near to you." This is the essence of what Christ has freed you to. God wants close, intimate fellowship with you and the only way that happens is by Jesus freeing you.

This allows you to build that relationship without fear or worry. You can enter God's presence with confidence because you know He wants you there and the hindrances have all been removed. This truly is living free.



Prayer: Thank you Jesus for restoring me to a healthy relationship with my heavenly Father God. AMEN

FRIDAY – Jesus sets you Free to Serve – (Your Activity)



Ephesians 2: 10 *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

One of the other reasons Christ has freed you is because He has work for you to do. He has a plan for your life. However, it will be difficult to achieve this plan if you are running around with a guilty conscience. When you do this, you are always trying to prove yourself or win the approval of the person you are serving.

To lighten the load, understand the following: You are saved by grace. You live by grace. God will accomplish His plan in your life by grace.

Christ frees you so that your activity doesn't flow out of some sense of trying to win God's approval. Your approval doesn't come because of

what you do, but because of what Christ has already done. When you understand this, you are free to accomplish the plan God has for your life with no agenda, no ulterior motive but out of a heart motivated by love for Him.

In the dictionary, freedom is defined as the power or right to act, speak, or think without hindrance or restraint. It further describes it as liberation from slavery or from the power of another. That definition completely wraps up everything Christ has done for us. There is only one thing left for you to do.

Live free! Enjoy your freedom today and go live the life Christ has freed you to live.



Prayer: Dear Lord, hold me close. Let Your love surround me. Bring me near and draw me to Your side. And as I wait I'll rise up like an eagle. And I will soar with You. Your Spirit leads me on in the power of Your love. AMEN

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