

Living in Freedom

I. 5 areas of bondage - Luke 4:18

A. The Gospel to the poor (lack in any area)

1. He is preaching the gospel to them which is good news!
2. There is good news for those who are lacking courage, physical/emotional strength, finances, Hope, etc.
3. John 10:9 "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."
 - a) Jesus is the way the truth and the life - the one that provides our every need. Jehova-Jireh - The God that provides.
4. Jesus gives us that overflowing, uncontainable life. He is the vine and we are the branches drawing in the life.
 - a) abide in the vine - One of the most important factors in living in freedom is time in God's presence (prayer and fasting).

B. Heal the broken hearted (sooth the soul)

1. Living in this world and experiencing its hardships wears on the soul (mind, will, and emotions).
2. This helps us to not be conditioned by the world, but by the soothing balm of the Spirit of God.
 - a) Conditioned and unconditioned responses
 - (1) An **unconditioned response** is behavior that occurs naturally due to a given **stimulus**. However, a **stimulus** prompts a **conditioned response** only when someone has come to associate that **stimulus** with another.
 - (2) Monkey experiment.
 - (a) God has designed us by nature to desire to live...hence the monkeys want the banana (Unconditioned response). However, the fear of attempting to get the banana was a conditioned response, first by experience, then by peer pressure.
 - (3) Our minds can be trained by the conditions around us without even realizing it. Walls can be set up in our minds just as a result of living in this world, and it takes the power and direction of the Holy Spirit to help us see it!
 - (4) The Israelites allowed themselves to be conditioned by their environment.
 - (a) Victimized mindset
 - (b) always negative
 - (c) thought they were better off in slavery than to be living under the power of God and His word.

- C. Preach deliverance to the captives (Knowledge of our freedom)
 - 1. Deliverance has to be preached, because the gates are all open! We need to spread the Word (the Gospel)!
 - a) Christians and non-christians need to hear about their freedoms.
 - b) We need to know our covenant wrights.
 - c) If you don't know what freedoms a legal document gives you then you won't enforce it or stand up to have them enforced.
 - (1) Romans 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."
- D. Recovering of sight to the blind (out of sight, out of mind)
 - 1. Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish..."
 - a) The Holy Spirit is telling and showing us that the gate is open and that there is life to be experienced out there, but if satan can keep us from hearing or seeing it, then we will never experience it.
 - 2. John 10:3, 4, 14, 16, 27 Jesus' sheep hear his voice!
- E. Set at liberty them that are bruised (pardoned from the crushing)
 - 1. The burden/pressure/weight of sin and death has been removed
 - a) Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit."
 - 2. The pressure of the requirements of the law have been removed so we are free to live empowered by the spirit!
 - a) Galatians 5:1-4
 - (1) Paul is talking about being bound by trying to be justified by the law.
 - (2) Vs. 4 - "Christ is become of none effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace."
 - (a) We need to take full advantage of God's grace in every area of our life in order to live to our full potential.
 - (b) Don't be a "barn sour" christian! The Holy Spirit is leading us out, so quit going back to the barn!
 - (c) "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink."

Keys to living in freedom (can be applied to each area of bondage)

Hear (prayer/fasting)

Trust

Obey