



CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Jubilee – Year of Celebration of The Lord
Topic	I am an Eagle, I can fly
Speaker	Brother Hakan Gabrielsson
Date	21 st and 22 nd February 2015

Message Summary

Spiritual Objective: Finding Restoration in the Lord

God can speak in many ways and at any time. He does so even today, and Brother Hakan shared of his testimony of how God had spoken to him in the form of a banner. This encounter stopped him from ending his life, and three years later, he finds himself immersed in the Work of God and giving his life for God's purposes.

Luke 4:18-20 is Jesus' mission statement. The next three years of Jesus' life is consistent with what He said that He would do. Liberation and deliverance are key components of what He proclaims as He quotes from Isaiah, and He fulfills this in the gospels as He meets individuals and ministers to them. As we look at the life of Jesus and ponder the motivations behind His actions, we find that liberation and the idea of Jubilee is central, and as the will and work of God was performed in His life, so too must it be expressed in ours.

Observations from Jesus' interactions

- 1. He was always ready to meet the needs of people.**
 - a. Jesus was always willing to heal, deliver and to set the captives free.
 - b. No one walked away from Him unsatisfied
- 2. He had the power to do as He said.**
- 3. He always responded to faith.**

These three things that we observe in His life are still in effect today in us, for we are His disciples. As such we need to look deeper into this ministry of restoration and discover what it truly entails. Jesus was interested in far more than just physical restoration, and we can observe this in the way he ministered to others. While He had restored their physical needs, he also went beyond that, and restored their relationship with Father God. He did away with sin and shame, and gave us righteousness, peace and healing. He gave us a new identity as a righteous child of God.

The Posture of Faith – 1 Samuel 1:7-18

Hannah was depressed. She was barren and her husband's other wife was tormenting her because of this. Driven by loneliness and shame, she prayed at a temple with such distress that Eli, the priest, thought her drunk. Through Eli, however, she received acknowledgement for her prayers and at once we see that her spirits were lifted. The very assurance that God had heard her prayers gave her faith. We know that in time she gave birth to a baby boy, for indeed the Lord had heard her, but what is of interest to us now is her immediate response (v. 18). She didn't keep praying for God to deliver her from her circumstance but immediately trusted that He has already heard her, and that the answer was coming.



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Freedom in Christ

The interaction of genes and environment contribute to the people that we will become. They shape our worldview, our families, and even how we view our problems. Luke 7:36-50 tells us of a woman whom everyone knew was a prostitute. What should not startle us is that society labelled her as such and ostracised her. She had no place in the house of a Pharisee and she knew it. It is a possibility that this was not a life that she had chosen, but few of us would consider this fact and would likewise treat her harshly. This treatment toward her would undoubtedly have troubled Jesus, and in His grace, proclaimed her forgiveness in public. This woman wept at the feet of Jesus for she felt herself unworthy; she did not know how to escape her lot in life, but she knew that she could approach Jesus for freedom.

Case Study – India & Nepal

There is a people group in India and Nepal where a large proportion of the females become sex slaves in India. This culture where men sell off their wives and daughters as prostitutes for money perpetuates within this people group rampantly. Girls grow up knowing that they could very likely end up as a prostitute, and that is only if they hadn't already been sold as a prostitute while they were still in their mother's womb. As a result it is not uncommon for them to view and label themselves as sex slaves. As prostitutes, these women as young as 11 years old could be forced upon by up to 12 customers a day. Here in the comforts of Singapore, we may not even consider the possibility of something like this happening in the world that we live in. Among these girls, we do find Christians who pray to the Lord for deliverance even as they are raped over and over again. Some of these women have their prayers answered but many do not. For those that are saved, however, their lives are redeemed and they find strength in the Lord to recover and carry on with their lives. From that of being a wounded little bird whose wings have been clipped, they can begin to say "I am an eagle, I can fly" as they experience healing and strength from the Lord.

Conclusion

We live in a world that is broken but has been restored by Jesus. In today's context, we are the agents of change and restoration in this broken world. Not all of us will be called to free oppressed prostitutes but there is so much that we can still do. Words themselves can be powerful, as we can see in many portions of scripture, such as John 8. The question that remains for us is this: Will we be God's agents of restoration?



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Questions

1) Go through Jesus' "mission statement" in Luke 4:18-20. Discuss how He lived up to these verses as He interacted with people.

(Fill In Answer Here)

2) As a follower of Christ, which part of the "mission statement" have you internalised and acted upon?

(Fill In Answer Here)

3) Which area of the "mission statement" do you think you can work on to prepare yourself to become an agent of restoration today? (List practical steps)

(Fill In Answer Here)