



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	This is Jesus Who Delivers the Captive	SPEAKER	Elder David Foo
THEME	This is Jesus	DATE	26 & 27 March 2022

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In this week's sermon, Elder David Foo shared about Jesus' mission to deliver us from captivity so that we may have a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and the unique attributes that make Him the one and only Lord and Saviour.

JESUS' MISSION: DELIVERING THE CAPTIVES

1. One of Jesus' key missions is to deliver us from captivity

Adam and Eve disobeyed God and this sin separated us from God. Sin prevents us from living the life that God designed for us – He created us to be His children, to fellowship with Him, to love Him and also to rule and reign with Him. Sin is so powerful that we cannot break free on our own, and so God sent Jesus to set us free from the captivity of sin.

2. Luke 19:1-10 - A case study on how Jesus set one person free from the captivity of sin

This particular sin that Jesus defeated in this passage is one of the most powerful and pervasive sins – the love of money. There is nothing inherently wrong with being rich or poor. Rather, it is the love of money that is a sin. Matthew 6:24 says that no one can serve two masters - you cannot serve both God and money. The love of money is the root of all evil. It has the power to enslave us to many different kinds of sins such as idolatry (pursuit of money rather than the things of God), envy and fear (when we fear, we disobey God's Word because God commands us not be anxious about anything but to trust in Him) (1 Tim 6:9-10).

In this story, Zacchaeus - a wealthy chief tax collector - was ensnared by his love for money; his desire to get rich forced him to betray his God and people. Jesus took the initiative to come to Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus recognized Jesus as Lord and that He is the one who sets the captives free. Zacchaeus saw only love in Jesus' gaze - there was no judgement and condemnation. He welcomed Jesus into his home and life which set him free from all his years of slavery to money. All other sins are the same. They hold us for years in a way that we do not know that we are trapped and stop trying to break free. However, God's grace can break through and give us clarity.

3. Who is this Jesus who delivers the captive?

- A. Jesus loves us deeply despite who we are or how undeserving we may be.
- B. Jesus takes the initiative to come to us and responds to the smallest effort to reach Him, even if it is only in our hearts. It was no accident that Jesus met Zacchaeus. God sees our hearts - He does not need a big show of repentance before He comes to us. We can be sure that for every one step we take towards Him, He has already taken many more towards us.
- C. Jesus saves us, even at His own expense. Jesus knew the price that He would have to pay to set Zacchaeus free from sin. He would lose the goodwill of the crowd but He gladly paid the price because of His love for Zacchaeus.
- D. Jesus led a sinless and blameless life but He loves us so much that he bore our sins. While we were yet sinners, He died for us (Isa 53:5-6).
- E. Jesus has the power to set anyone free from any sin. It was Jesus who set Zacchaeus free from sin the moment he welcomed Jesus into his life. Zacchaeus' willingness to give his money away was an outcome of that freedom.

As Christians who have been set free from sin, we can still be ensnared by deception (e.g. ungodly beliefs or lies from the devil) (Col 2:8). The solution is the spiritual weapon we have in Christ – to take every thought captive in obedience to Christ. There is no sin or trap so powerful that Jesus cannot set us free from; all we need is to call on the name of Jesus.

CONCLUSION

Are you walking in freedom with God just as God has designed for us or are you ensnared by sin? It does not matter how many times we have failed God or fallen back into the same sin. Jesus came to seek and save the lost because He wants us to be free. God has taken the initiative to reach out to us and is waiting for us to welcome Him to take the rightful place in our lives. All we need to do is to call on the name of Jesus and He will come and set us free. Only then can we be free from sin and be restored to the destiny that He has for us.

QUESTIONS

1. Share about a past sin or deception that Jesus set you free from. How did you overcome it and how did Jesus come through for you?

2. Write down one lie or thought that you need to take captive of and replace it with a truth (Bible verse). Meditate and pray over it. Share about the lie and how the verse speaks to you.

3. Ask God to reveal a person in your life who needs this freedom that Jesus offers. How can you pray for or share Christ with this person?