



**This is Jesus who delivers  
the captive**

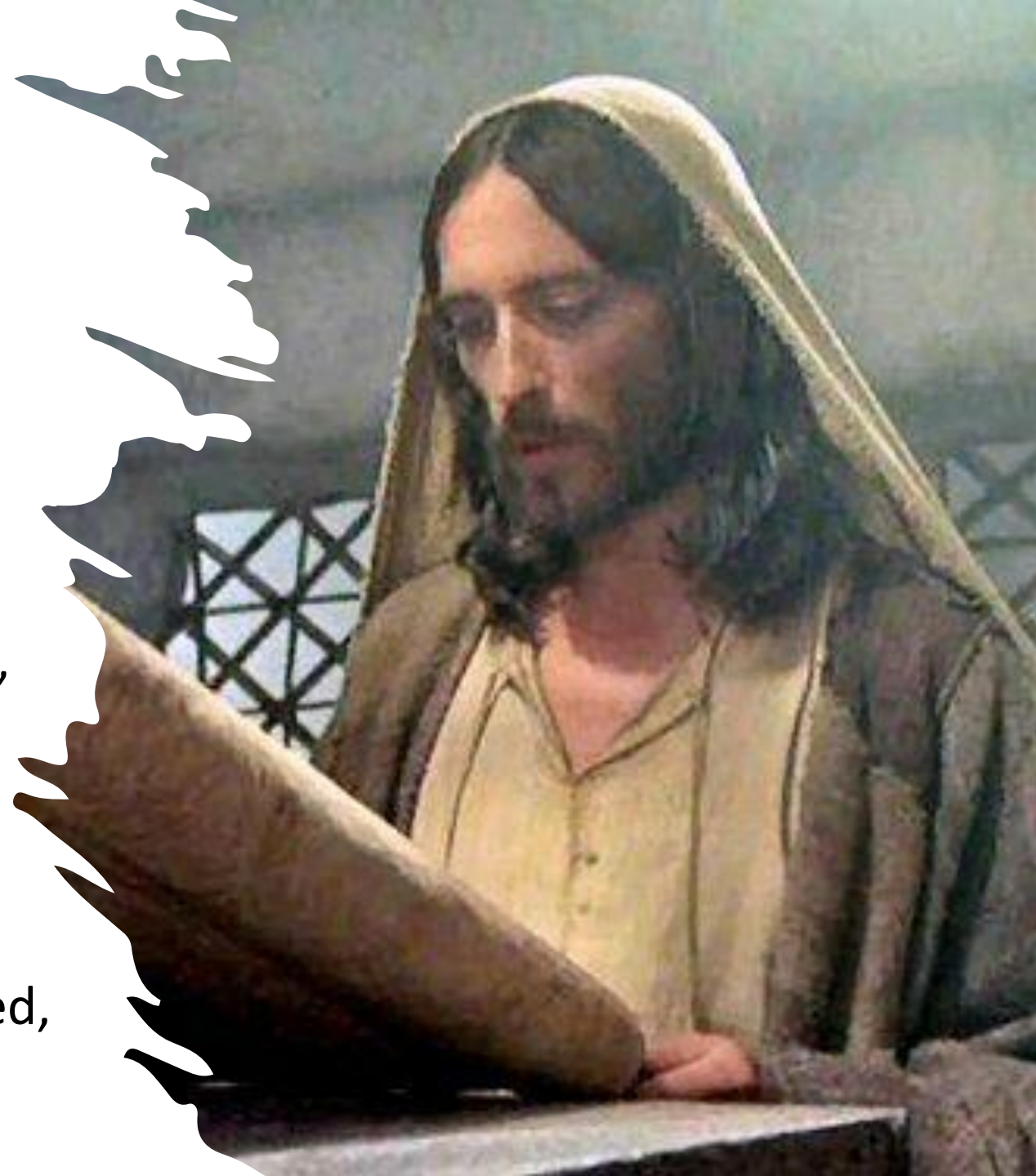


## Luke 4:18-19

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the  
prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

## Isaiah 61:1,2

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
Because the LORD anointed me  
To bring good news to the humble;  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim release to captives  
And freedom to prisoners;



# Sermon series: This is Jesus

Topic	Speaker
This is Jesus who heals the broken hearted	Brother Gary Koh
 This is Jesus who delivers the captive	Elder David Foo
This is Jesus who brings sight to the spiritually blind	Ps Darren Kuek
 This is Jesus who sets free the oppressed	Elder Leon Oei

# The mission: Delivering the captives

- What kind of captivity did Jesus come to deliver us from?
  - Fall of man in Genesis
  - Sin holds us captive away from God, unable to live the lives or fulfil the destiny that God had designed for us
  - Sin's hold on us is so powerful that we cannot break free on our own
  - This was not part of God's intention for man, so God sent Jesus to set us free from the captivity of sin

# Outline

1. Case study – How Jesus delivers a captive (Luke 19:1-10)
2. Who is this Jesus who delivers the captive

## Case study – Luke 19:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.

<sup>3</sup> He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”

<sup>6</sup> So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

## Case study – Luke 19:1-10

<sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

<sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”



## Why this case study?

- Firstly, it is one of the only passages we have about Jesus delivering a captive, who was not also oppressed by demonic powers. So it fits very nicely into how we have divided the sermon series.
- Secondly, if you imagine the different sins as having different levels of power, this particular sin that Jesus had to go up against is one of the most powerful and pervasive. In fact, Paul described this sin as a root of all evil.

# The Sin – the love of money

- To clarify, it is not money itself, but the love of money that is the root of all kinds of evil and sin.
- Abundance and riches are a blessing from God.
- We are blessed so that we can bless others. On the other hand, abundance and riches are not the only form, nor the main form of blessings from God.

# The Sin – the love of money

- **Idolatry/ False God**
- **Envy/ Covetousness**
- **Worry/ Fear**

## 1 Tim 6:9-10

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus;  
he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.

- The words “Tax collectors” and “sinners” were synonymous
- Tax collectors were notorious for corruption
- Zacchaeus’ choice of career and environmental factors
- All sin holds us captive, we are powerless to break free on our own



He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

- Although we are trapped in sin and unaware that we are trapped, once in a while, God's grace breaks through and we see the truth
- Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus and wondered who Jesus really was

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.



All the people saw this and began to mutter,  
“He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord,  
“**Look, Lord!** Here and now I give half of my  
possessions to the poor,  
and if I have cheated anybody out of anything,  
I will pay back four times the amount.”



Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

# Who is this Jesus who delivers the captive

1. *He knows all about you and loves you deeply*
2. *He takes the initiative to come to you, and responds to the smallest effort to reach Him, even if it is only in your heart*
3. *He saves you, even at His own expense*
4. *He has power to set anyone free from any sin*

# *He knows all about you and loves you deeply*

- Jesus knew all about Zacchaeus, and He certainly knows all about you.
- Despite seeing us for who we really are, Jesus loves us
- **Romans 5:8** - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this While we were still sinners Christ died for us



*He takes the initiative to come to you, and responds to the smallest effort to reach Him, even if it is only in our heart*

- 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.
- For every one step we take towards Him, He has already taken many more towards us.



## *He saves you, even at His own expense*

- Jesus knew the price He would have to pay to set Zacchaeus free from sin. A price that Jesus gladly paid because of His love for Zacchaeus.

### Isaiah 53:5-6

But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.  
We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.



# *He has power to set anyone free from any sin*

- It was NOT Zacchaeus' willingness to give away his money that set him free. It was Jesus.
- The willingness to give his money away was an outcome of that freedom, not the cause of it. Jesus is the cause of Zacchaeus freedom.
- Jesus is willing and able to set you free, even if He has done it before and you have gotten ensnared again



## *He has power to set anyone free from any sin*

- Christians have been set free from sin, but may still be ensnared by deception (i.e. strongholds)
- Col 2:8 - See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.
- Solution: Take every thought captive in obedience to Christ



What does freedom feel like?  
Have you experienced it?



# This Jesus who delivers the captive

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2. *He takes the initiative to come to you, and responds to the smallest effort to reach Him, even if it is only in your heart*
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4. *He has power to set anyone free from any sin*

**Call on Him and be saved!**