



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC This is Jesus Who Sets Free the Oppressed **SPEAKER** Elder Leon Oei

THEME This is Jesus **DATE** 09 & 10 April 2022

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Everyone has experienced or seen oppression in one form or another; we could perhaps have been the oppressor as well. The message this week by Elder Leon Oei outlines what oppression is, how we get freedom from oppression and who Jesus is in relation to oppression.

3-PART MESSAGE

Looking at a summarized timeline of Jesus' life, we see that at the start of his public ministry, Jesus declares that He has come to set the oppressed free (Luke 4:18), followed by his three years of ministry setting the oppressed free and finally with his crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus strikes the power behind oppression.

1. This is Oppression

Oppression is defined in some dictionaries as the unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power. From Isaiah 58:6, we understand that it could refer to exploitation, quarrel and strife. Note that oppression is not the same as captivity. Captivity may sometimes be appealing (e.g. animals well-taken care of though held captive in the zoo) while oppression never is.

There are many types of oppression but today's message focuses on:

A. Physical

- Disease: **Jesus grants the diseased recovery.** Sometimes it happens immediately (e.g. Centurion's daughter), sometimes in stages (e.g. the blind man) and sometimes it happens as they obey (e.g. lepers in Luke 17:12-14). One thing to note – We should not discount our own bodies recovering from disease or injuries; that in itself is a miracle!
- Death: **Jesus grants resurrection to the dead.** This is an oppression we have all grown accustomed to and we forget that we were not originally created to die. This oppression is a result of sin and we are all subject to this. However, our blessed hope is eventual spiritual resurrection which leads to physical resurrection where we will have new bodies in eternity.

B. Spiritual

- Demons: **Jesus grants release to the demoniac.** Luke 4:33-35 is one of several examples of exorcism done by Jesus in the bible. Demonic oppression happens even today and is often one of the more obvious forms of spiritual oppression.
- Dogma: **Jesus grants revelation to the dogmatic.** We must be careful not to be dogmatic for dogmatism's sake (Luke 13:15-16). Everything needs to be aligned with the Word and

we must be careful not to become disdainful of others who hold a different view. Hating others is oppressive – this is not what God teaches. He taught us to respond to hatred with love, whether we are the ones being hated or the ones doing the hating.

- Damnation: **Jesus grants redemption to the damned.** Since the time of Adam, we have been slaves to sin. Jesus came to pay the price (Luke 19:10) to save us. All the physical and physiological oppressions cannot compare to the oppression of damnation as this is an eternal sentence.

2. This is Freedom

With every type of oppression, we are given a way out through Jesus. Freedom can be found no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in.

Physical

- Disease: Jesus grants the diseased **recovery**.
- Death: Jesus grants **resurrection** to the dead.

Spiritual

- Demons: Jesus grants **release** to the demoniac.
- Dogma: Jesus grants **revelation** to the dogmatic.
- Damnation: Jesus grants **redemption** to the damned.

3. This is Jesus

Everything that was done was because of God's love and the nature of who He is and therefore who Jesus is.

- He heals
- He resurrects
- He exorcises
- He reveals
- He redeems

CONCLUSION

Jesus knows oppression and He laid down his life so that freedom can be bought for the oppressed. As the body of Christ, we are called to be God's hands and feet in this world to set the oppressed free. To follow in Christ's example, as a church, we need to fight oppression in our spheres of influence whether it is in our families and homes, our workplaces or in our neighbourhood.

QUESTIONS

1. Recall an example of oppression that you have witnessed or read about recently. What was the form of oppression and how has it impacted you?

2. Which of type of oppression (physical, spiritual, etc) stood out the most to you and why? Are there any obstacles to your belief that Jesus has set you free?

3. As a church we are tasked to help free the oppressed in today's world. Is there anyone in your life that God is prompting you to help set free? Or is there an area of oppression in your life that you need to address? How can the cell group support you in this area?