

Week Fifty-two: “Setting Captives Free”

Day One: “Setting Captives Free”

Read: Matthew 12 (p.1092)

Refer to: Commentary (p.1093)

Reflect

See the 3rd paragraph in the commentary. If your life is like a house, how is getting rid of the garbage going in your life?

What are the two key things needed to get ‘the garbage out’?

DIG

In Matthew 12:18-21, how did the prophet Isaiah describe Jesus’ ministry on earth?

Read Matt. 3:7-10, Matt.9:32-34 and Matt. 12:22-24. Notice the gradual hardening of the Pharisees attitude. What power did the Pharisees claim Jesus used to make miracles? In what power were those miracles done by Jesus?

What is the “unforgivable sin“ Jesus talks about in verse 32?

Apply

Go to page 1523 in your Freedom in Christ bible. Read through the six commitments under “how to Maintain Your Freedom.” What suggestions under this heading is God’s Spirit calling you to commit to? Pray right now for God’s help to begin or keep this commitment.

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Day Two: “The Truth Encounter”

Read: Acts 20:13-38 (p. 1264)

Refer to commentary on pg.1265

Reflect

Sometimes people twist the truths of God’s Word so that it is changed and no longer true. St. Paul describes this as savage wolves among sheep. Why do you think he describes it that way?

Dig

What does Paul mean by “I am innocent of the blood of all men” in verses 26 & 27?

See Ezekial 33:1-7 (p.939) for a biblical answer to this question.

What is Paul’s greatest fear? See verses 29-31.

What does Matt. 7:15-20 (p.1085) add to your understanding of this passage?

Apply

Pray that in your family and in our church we will know the truth, believe the truth and speak the truth in love.

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Day Three: “Helping Others Establish Their Freedom in Christ”

Read: 2 Timothy 2:24-26 (p. 1406)

Refer to commentary on page 1406

Reflect

If you see your friend doing or saying something you know is wrong, what should you do? If you correct them with the truth, how should that be done?

Dig

Make a list of what Paul tells Timothy to “flee” from or “avoid.” Then make a list of the things Paul tells Timothy he must practice or should be in his character:

Things to avoid or flee

Good things (or Fruit)

Look up Matt. 11:28-30 (p. 1091). Notice how Jesus describes himself. What is the effect on people’s lives when you approach them as Jesus describes himself approaching people?

Apply

In prayer, ask God to strengthen the fruit of the Spirit in your life.

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Day Four: “The Wonderful Counselor”

Read: Isaiah 61:1-3(p.819)

Refer to commentary on page 819

Reflect

Reading all the way to the end of Isaiah 61:3, list all the things that a person does who is “anointed” of God.

Dig

Look up Luke 4:16-19 (p. 1158) and notice where Jesus stops his quotation of the Isaiah passage. Why does he stop here?

“Favor” can mean “grace.” Why would Jesus announce “grace” at this time and not judgement?

Apply

Pray that God would shine in you in such a way that others will see Jesus and then seek Jesus, the wonderful counselor.

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Day Five: “A Call to Live a Righteous Life”

Read: 2 Peter 3 (p. 1463)

Refer to commentary (p.1462)

Reflect

Do you think Jesus is coming again soon?

Dig

What does the Bible say about how things will be when Jesus comes again? List them for verse 3, 8, and 10.

How does Peter say we ought to prepare for Jesus Second Coming? See verse 11, 12, and 18.

How can we grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus?

Apply

Now we have come to the end of our year-long study in the Freedom in Christ Bible. See if you can think of one truth that you learned or means the most to you. Has anything changed in your life as a result of this study?

Thank God for this past year!