

## FREEDOM

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There are always things that God wants to do that we have never heard of. What you know may keep you from what you need to know if you don't remain a novice. WE NEED TO BE CHILD LIKE. A child has a core value of adventure. If OUR WALK WITH THE LORD STOPS BEING FUN WE NEED TO BACK UP AND FIND OUT WHERE WE LEFT GOD. YES, IT IS SCARY FUN, BUT STILL FUN. Impulse of the Holy Spirit.

It is the journey of getting what I want that allows me to keep it when it comes to me. That's a powerful statement about Freedom.

Walking in our freedom journey is not necessarily the ability to say no to wrong things, but it is saying yes so completely to our freedom in Christ that it virtually eliminates the option for the wrong. True humility is marked by dependence on God, not shying away from the greatness of freedom.

There are times when God is strongly focusing us on learning our authority and saying "Take this by force!". There are other times, He is saying to us to become childlike and receive our inheritance. There are some things that are so great that they can only be obtained by resting in the presence of the Father.

Freedom is a great gift that is given to his sons and daughters at a great price. Freedom, righteousness and peace is the substance of heavens atmosphere. Joy in freedom is the currency of heaven.

Romans 14:17 says "the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Two of these are felt and they feel like freedom. John 16:24 says "until now you have not asked anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. "

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Answers to prayer give us access to unlimited realms of joy and freedom. Much of our boredom in prayer comes from praying for things that we already have. Jesus died for our freedom. It's a done deal when we decide to receive and live in it. I CHOOSE TO LIVE IN FREEDOM. HAVE YOU MADE THAT CHOICE?

Most closed heavens are between our ears. We don't live in denial of tragedy and difficulty, but we don't put it on our dinner plate and focus on it. Any time we put form above relationship, we have the birthplace of religion. God is wanting to give us something this morning as his daughters and sons. Freedom.

I would like to go back into our childhood and pull an old familiar story into our present day. It's found in **Ps. 127:1. It goes like this.**

**Mr and Mrs Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. They had a big argument and together had a great fall. All the government agencies, counselors, politicians and dollars couldn't put their relationship back together again." That comes from the Hebrew text that I can't read.**

What a perceptive parable of our society. We are living in a culture and generation in which everything not nailed down is coming loose. Things people said could never happen are happening. And thoughtful people are asking where is the glue with which to reassemble the disintegrating and disarrayed parts of their lives and culture.

Eugene O'Neil makes one of his play characters say it so graphically. "but you cannot build a marble temple out of a mixture of mud and straw". But we continue to try. We are committed, almost neurotically to the position that man has the answers to his problems.

We are forever building our sand castles only to discover the inundating tide of reality wiping them out.

3

In Denver, I saw an interesting piece of graffiti on a big wall that said “Humpty Dumpty was pushed.” In a very real way our contemporary culture is pushing our families and societal values off the wall of truth, purity and freedom. The time is long over due for us to return to the Biblical specifications of Kingdom principles and life in the Holy Spirit. Let’s return to our Lord’s manual, Scripture.

There’s an interesting bit of wisdom that goes like this. “When I try I fail. When I trust He succeeds”. This flesh knows only one thing and that’s failure. And God has no self improvement plan for our flesh. Let it die. That’s why the Christian life is a supernatural life. As Christians we cannot achieve apart from the Spirit of God. Have those 6 words that came from the lips of Jesus been etched on your heart? “Without me you can do nothing.” What finality. Surely, something Lord! Nothing. A little bit Lord? Nothing! No way dude. That’s from the Hebrew too.

Americans all across our land are climbing ladders only to discover that when they get to the top of the ladder it’s leaning against the wrong wall. People are going to counselors by droves saying I bet my life on the wrong horse. I’ve lived by the wrong standards.

Let’s move back to Ps 127:1 and get the right translation.

**Ps. 127:1 “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain.”**

God is the only one who knows how to construct a Christian life. There are two contributors to the construction job. The general contractor who is the Lord and us, the laborers. Both are important and indispensable.

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1 Peter 2:9 “ But you are God’s chosen treasure—priests who are kings, a spiritual nation set apart as God’s devoted ones. He called you out of darkness to experience his marvelous light, and now he claims you as his very own. He did this so that you would broadcast his glorious wonders throughout the world.”

His divine plan has given us everything we need for life. We have been called by His glory and goodness. It’s as we respond to this call that His design plans are revived. Col. 1 tells us that anything functioning outside the created purposes of God needs reconciliation for us to walk in freedom.

There are two creative tensions at work here. It’s true we do build our home and life and we all know people who feel they don’t need any help or direction. But if we don’t know where we’re going any road will do. That’s why so many feel they are doing so good because they don’t know what they are doing. Airline pilot. Good news and bad news. Good news is we are making great time, Bad news is that we don’t know where we are going.

When we walk up to an airline ticket counter and they ask where are you going we don’t say “anywhere is fine. I don’t care. That would be ludicrous. Yet many are building their lives and relationships without any specific objectives in mind. Successful relationships are built and shaped by God’s purposes. I visited an office one time that had a poster on the wall. In ten years from now what will you wish you had done today? DO IT NOW!

5

Aristotel said “Like archers we shall stand a far greater chance of hitting the target if we can see it.” Profound. That’s what made him Aristotel. Friends in all my years of ministry and counseling I have never met anyone who planned on having a mediocre life. Just drifting through life is not an option if we want to make the most of the Freedom that Father God has already given us through the sacrifice of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let me go back to my translation of Ps 127:1 and share a parable called Humpty Dumpty revisited.

Mr & Mrs Dumpty sat on a wall. Together they fought and had a great fall. All the Kings horses and all the kings men couldn’t put their relationship back together again.

But soon the king heard of the DUMPTIES fate and was deeply disturbed. So, setting aside his royal finery he dressed as a common peasant and slipped out of his kingly palace unnoticed by all and into the rough and tumble street life of His kingdom.

The King meandered through the back streets and alleys in search of the Dumpty’s. After several days and nights the persistent monarch found them. Their shattered relationship was scattered over a ten foot circle amidst the broken glass and flattened beer cans of a back alley. Though weak from his searching the King was overjoyed at the sight of the Dumptys. He ran to their side and cried “Friends, it is I – your King! I have powers greater than those of my horses and men who failed to put you together again. Be at peace. I am here to help. LEAVE ME ALONE Humpty’s mouth retorted. I’ve gotten used to this new way of life. I kind of like it.

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But – was all the King could get out before Mrs. Dumpty interrupted. I tell you we are fine. We like it here. That trash can over there, the way the sun sparkles on the broken glass. This must be the best garden spot in the world.

The King tried again. “I assure you my kingdom has much more to offer than this back alley. There are green mountains, rolling surf, exciting cities...”

But the Dumpties would hear none of it. And the King, saddened, returned to his palace

A week later one of Humpty’s eyes rolled skyward only to see the concerned face of the King, standing over his fractured life and said.

“I’ve come to help” he firmly stated.

Look, leave us alone will you said Humpty. We’ve just seen our psychiatrist and he assures us that we’re getting along fine and doing a great job of coping with our environment and culture as it is. You’re a cop out. A man has to deal with life as it comes. We’re realists.

But wouldn’t you rather walk? Asked the King.

Look replied Mrs Dumpty’s mouth. Once we get up and start walking we’ll have to stand up and keep walking. At this point in our lives we’re not ready to make a commitment like that. How about you Humpty? I thot you would agree with me. So, if you’ll excuse me. Your blocking my sun.

Reluctantly the King turned once again and walked through the streets of his kingdom back to the palace. It was over a year before the King ventured to return to the Dumpty’s side.

But sure enough, one bright morning one of Humpty’s ears perked up at the sure, steady strides of the King.

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This time they were ready. Their eyes turned toward the tall figure just as they managed the words, MY King.

Immediately the King fell to his knees on the glass covered pavement. His strong, knowing hands gently began to piece together their fragmented marriage and broken lives. After some time, his work completed, the King rose to his full height pulling up with him the figures of two strong and vital people that seemed to be one.

The three of them walked hand-in-hand thru out the Kings kingdom. Together they stood atop lush green mountains. They ran together along deserted beaches. They laughed and joked together as they strolled the gleaming cities of the King's domain.

This went on forever. And to the depth, breath, and height of their friendship. There was no end.

Once while walking together down the sidewalk in one of the Kings' cities, the Dumpty's overheard a remark that made their hearts leap with both the joy of their new coupleness and the bitter memory of the back alley. Someone said, "Say, who are those three people?" Another replied "You remember the couple from the alley who always fought and kicked each off the wall? That's them on the left. I don't know the one on the right but they sure look like their related.

This parable gives us a portrait of the journey so many in our culture are on. It depicts the brokenness of life so many are trapped in. Deceived, hurt, hopeless, angry and full of rage, rebellious, shamed and not knowing how to get out of this vicious downward spiral. If this is you in any way listen to the words of life, hope and challenge from Scripture. And remember there are two sides to the coin of freedom. Freedom from the past and freedom to become all Father God has planned for you.

8

ROM 6:16 Don't you realize that grace frees you to choose your own master? But chose carefully, for you surrender yourself to become a servant – bound to the one you choose to obey. If you choose to love sin, it will become your master, and it will own you and reward you with death. But if you choose to love and obey God, he will lead you into perfect righteousness. (Freedom)

John 8:36. "So if the Son sets you free from sin, then become a true son and be unquestionably free."

Gal. 5:1. Let me be clear, the Anointed One has set us free—not partially, but completely and wonderfully free! We must always cherish this truth and stubbornly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past.

We are free to serve and love.

Gal. 5:13 "You my brothers and sisters, were called to be free, But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

True freedom is not merely the absence of restrictions but the presence of righteousness and the ability to choose what is good and godly that moves us forward in our freedom.

Rom6:22. "But now, as God's loving servants, you live in joyous freedom from the power of sin. So consider the benefits you now enjoy—you are brought deeper into the experience of true holiness that ends with eternal life!"

Impact Team please come up and bring your communion elements with you.



9

It's been my observation down through the years that people often take communion and remember their sins. Jesus said "do this in remembrance of me." This morning I want to ask you to keep your focus on Jesus and His desire for you to be His forever friend and let Him be your savior.

We are going to go back to an old hymn and sing What A Friend We Have in Jesus. At any time as you sing a phrase, verse or a word that prompts you to partake of your communion elements please do so. Also, if there is some area of your life you want a greater degree of freedom please come and let someone on the Impact Team pray for you. OR, it could be that you just need to witness to someone about the great freedom you enjoy walking in. They will be happy to listen.

## WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear.  
What a privilege to carry  
Every thigs to God in prayer.

Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what need-less pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Every thing to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble any where?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer:  
Do thy friends despise forsake  
thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.