

**Introduction:**

- *“Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God’s Good News. **“The time promised by God has come at last!”** he announced. **“The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”**”* (Mark 1:14–15, NLT)
  - What was the good news? *“The time promised by God has come at last!”* Powerful words spoken by Jesus! It was Martin Luther King Jr. who delivered the immortal words on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. *“Free at last, Free at last, Thank God almighty we are free at last.”* Full quote: *“And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual Free at last! Free at last Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”*
  - On the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty are written these words: *“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”*
  - IE. How Freedom Christian Center got its name. Kelly and I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We entered a new place in God. Freedom is very noticeable when you have been bound by tradition, bad theology, and limitations while you serve a limitless God. You Suddenly realize you were a prisoner. *“For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”* (2 Corinthians 3:17, NLT) John 8:36 *“Whom the Son sets free is free indeed!”*
  - I have been all around the world and people from every nation are looking for freedom and they are looking for life. Every nation! No matter the culture, the customs, people are looking for life and they are looking for Freedom. It is found only in one place. The Kingdom of God.
  - I have been saying for several months now: **Freedom Christian Center exists to bring freedom and life to people and glory to God.**
  - If there is one thing that people are looking for in life it is Freedom and Life!
  - Do this for me: What do you need set free from? What are the issues or concerns that you are struggling with that keep you from being free? I can even give you a list to help you think:
    - Freedom from guilt, Freedom from anger, Freedom from depression, Freedom from grief, Freedom from debt, Freedom from habitual sin, Freedom from fear or worry, Freedom from pornography, Freedom from lying, Freedom from drugs, Freedom from rejection....
- I. **Freedom** John 8:36 *If the Son make you free you are truly free!*
  - A. Jesus in Mark 1:14-15, announced that the time promised by God has come.
    1. What was that promise?
      - a) In the OT, this referred to the Kingdom of the Messiah. The Deliverer.
      - b) It spoke of the decisive action of God in the realm of men.
    2. It was the Gospel of the Kingdom. What is that? It is the good news of the Kingdom of God.
      - a) It was good news. IE. Like a runner returning from battle to give the good report of victory.
      - b) The good news is that the Kingdom of God is here!
      - c) The time of God’s rule has come! His Kingdom is His government and His government is His rule. Disciples govern their lives by Jesus teaching.
      - d) Jesus proclaims His rule over Satans rule in the earth for all who will believe. Mt 4:23, a parallel passage says, (Gospel of the Kingdom.) Rejoice for the rule of God is here. Implies a shift in government... God’s rule. For all nations not just one nation.
  - B. His message found in Luke 4 is:
    1. The poor get some good news! Provision is your if you seek the Kingdom.
    2. The captives will be released. Demon possessed people are to be freed.
    3. The Blind will see. The sick and afflicted are to made well.
    4. The oppressed will be set free. Demon oppressed are to be free from torment.
    5. God’s favor is here.

6. Those five things above, all speak of Freedom. Those five things are signs that the Kingdom of God is among us.
- C. His message is for prisoners. His message is for slaves. Slaves belong to others. His message is for those who are bound and who desire a higher plane of living. He came to break us out!
  1. Slaves to sin - *“Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin.”* (John 8:34, NLT) Sin puts people in bondage. Restricts their freedom. They do what they do not want to do.
  2. Slaves to sickness - IE. Sickness keeps you down. Restricts you from others, from activities and from being yourself.
  3. Slaves to self - 2 Cor 10 strongholds, arguments, high things against God. In the mind-education (no God), pain (emotional, and physical), culture. Selfishness, pride, etc.
  4. Slaves to scars of the past. Prisoner of fear, prisoner of rejection, prisoner of bitterness,
- D. Thief comes to steal, kill, destroy. John 10:10
- E. But the Truth will set you free. Jesus is Truth and Jesus is the Word. *“So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”* (John 8:36, NLT) truly means to the fullest degree. Do not settle for a little!
  1. The Word is Truth and it sets free. Gr. eleutherosei - to make free. Three implication of the OT words that give this word meaning. 1. The family must redeem lives or goods that have fallen into bondage. 2. Another Hebrew word means to wash away or to cover. To atone 3. And yet a third word means to pay a ransom. All three of these Hebrew words can be translated free, set free or freed! Take back what the enemy has stolen.
  2. *“How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word.”* (Psalm 119:9, NLT)
  3. The Truth...Jesus...The Word will set you free. **When you find freedom you will find life.** Church we exist to help people find freedom and Life!
- II. **Life** - Life flows out of freedom. **Zoe** - physical life of vitality. Life is not a thing but the vitality that characterizes all living things. The true life, the life of God is indestructible. When you are a slave your vitality is greatly diminished. The more freedom you experience the more vitality you experience. Jesus said the Truth will set you free.
  - A. *“The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”* (John 6:63, NLT)
    1. Jn 10:10 Life is what Jesus came to give and He gives it in the max! Spirit, soul and body!
    2. John 1:4 (In Him was life and life was light of men.)
    3. Jn 3:16 God loved the world so much that He gave...
    4. 6:48 ( the Bread of Zoe)
    5. 6:63 (it is the Spirit that makes alive). Off with chains that keep relationship bound. When the rule of God comes chains come off. And you experience Freedom and Life.
  - B. Lame man bound. *“Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man’s feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.”* (Acts 3:7–8, NLT) Zoe! This is a picture of Zoe in action. IE off with the ankle weights. When the rule of God comes chains come off. And you experience Freedom and Life.
  - C. Demoniac was bound. Mark 5:1-ff.
    1. He was possessed. Something else was controlling him. He was a prisoner of Legion.
    2. Demons possess and demons oppress. Neither is good! He live in caves among the tombs, cut himself, was at times put in chains, howled in torment.
    3. Jesus made the demons leave him. *“...the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid.”* (Mark 5:15, NLT) Take off chains of addictions, bitterness, rejection.
  - D. Daughter of Abraham bound by Satan. *“This dear woman, a daughter of Abraham, has been held in bondage by Satan for eighteen years. Isn’t it right that she be released, even on the Sabbath?”* (Luke 13:16, NLT)

1. The woman is held in bondage to Satan. Bent over for 18 years! Jesus is saying to the Pharisees, “Do you see what hellish prison she has been in, in this condition.
2. The Woman is set free! Gr.- *lyō* is used for release from prison, the opening of what is closed, the destroying of foundations, and the putting off of fetters. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 543). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans. **Zoe - is what she got.**
3. The woman can now live like never before! And the crowds gave glory to God. Gr. endows - to honor, renown, the magnificent acts of God. Luke 13:13 She glorified God. IE Off with vest weight. Glory to God!!!

### III. Glory

- A. When the rule of God comes men enter the culture of heaven.
  1. It brings freedom to their lives. Chains of sin fall off. Rejection falls off. Fear falls off.
  2. When the chains come off new life, zoe, enters. IE. Ankle weights
  3. When you are free you go running and leaping and praising God!
- B. Paralytic man walks on sabbath. “**Fear swept through the crowd as they saw this happen. And they praised God for giving humans such authority.**” (Matthew 9:8, NLT) They gave doxa to God.
- C. Massive miracles. “**The crowd was amazed! Those who hadn’t been able to speak were talking, the crippled were made well, the lame were walking, and the blind could see again! And they praised the God of Israel.**” (Matthew 15:31, NLT) Doxa.
- D. Jesus teaching frees. “**He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.**” (Luke 4:15, NLT)
- E. Jesus was fruitful and so are we. “**When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.**” (John 15:8, NLT)

### Conclusion:

- We exist to bring freedom and life to people and glory to God. That freedom comes through the rule of God.
- When people are set free, broken out of bondage, life fills them!
- Jesus came that we would have life and have it to the fullest!
- Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is FREEDOM! There is the rule of God!