

**Introduction:**

- Everyone is a prisoner of something. The apostle Paul called himself a prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 3:1; 4:1; 2 Tim 1:8; Philemon 1, 8) And most of his letters to the church was to get them free from the prison of sin and lifelessness. Last week I spoke of being prisoners of fear, rejection, addiction, bitterness, unforgiveness, etc. Ie. Show me a person who harbors those things in their heart and I will show a person, though free from sin, still lives in a prison.
- Zombie Dreams 2015
  - Zombies are alive but have no life. Jesus came that we would have life and have it abundantly. Jn 10:10
  - Zombies are the walking dead, they can be believers who live under the influence of the prince of the power of the air rather than under the power of the Spirit in the atmosphere of heaven.
  - Zombies are a picture of marred humanity that is in need of restoration.
- This morning I am going to share with you the way into prison, the key to getting out of prison, and a simple way to plan your escape.

**I. Every Prison Starts With A Lie**

- A. In the natural, in order to go to prison you have to commit a crime. In the spiritual realm in order to go to a prison you must believe a lie. Spiritual prisons are entered through believing lies.
  1. Adam and Eve are a prime example. Genesis 3. Adam and Eve are the apex of God's creation. They are made in the image of God. Rulers of a kingdom never marred by any pain. They are truly free and living an abundant life! They are not Zombies, prisoners or slaves. They are truly free! Free to love, free to be, free to give!
  2. What happened to them? They know they can eat of any tree in the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The serpent comes and he lies to them. *"You won't die...you will be like God."* They believe the lie. They eat the fruit. And they died! They now become prisoners of sin and death! Forever! Eternity. God makes skins of some animal to cover them. A prophetic picture of the sacrificial Lamb. Something must die for their shame to be covered.
  3. The prison gets introduced to the family line. "All men died!" Paul says in Romans. Our prisons have a tendency to get handed down from generation to generation if we are not pro-active in staying free and communicating truth to family. Believing a lie will put you in spiritual prison. IE. the bag of prisons representing lies we believe.
- B. God's response is powerful when He catches up to Adam and Eve. Questions:
  1. Where are you? Gen 3:9 God knew where they were! He just wanted them to acknowledge where they were. It is the first step in getting out of prison. You have to acknowledge that you are there. You have to acknowledge you have a problem.

2. Who told you? *"Who told you that you were naked?"* Gen 3:11. Another way of seeing this is: "Who told you this lie you have believed?" Have you eaten of the tree? or "Did you swallow the lie?" Hook line and sinker! *"What have you done?"* vs 13. You just entered a prison of your own making by believing the lie. What are the results of believing the lie? He is wanting them to own the consequences....or, to connect the dots. Lie + belief = prison.
  3. As soon as they find themselves in prison, God immediately begins implementing His plan to get them out! That's Love!
  4. Other examples:
    - a) Numbers 13, 10 spies believed the lie (We are not strong enough) 2 believed truth. Ten died in their prison/wilderness. Two reached the promised land.
    - b) Saul and the armies of Israel were afraid of Goliath. (They believed the lie not strong enough. David did not.) David trusted God and received a promotion!
- C. Know your enemy. The serpent is the deceiver.
1. Jesus called him a liar and the father of lies. Satan is a liar and he propagates the lies that when believed puts people in spiritual prisons. He makes zombies of Christian - alive but having no life.
    - a) *"For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies."* (John 8:44, NLT)
    - b) He is the father of putting people in prison. What lie have you believed that has put you in prison. Ie. Bag of prisons.
    - c) We must find/determine the lie we have believed and exchange it for the truth. *"That is why I said that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I Am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins."* (John 8:24, NLT)

## II. Every Prison Break Starts With Truth

- A. Believing lies will put you in prison...But the truth will set you free! If believing a lie put you in prison then the key to getting out is believing the truth.
- B. Jesus is the Truth
  1. Jesus is the truth. *"Jesus told him, "I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6, NLT)
    - a) What is the way to the Father? Adam and Ever were banished from the Father in the Garden of Eden. Now, Jesus the Truth, not a lie, is making a way for humanity back to the Father!
    - b) As Truth, He stands forever. Lies and deception will be undone but truth remains forever.
    - c) As truth He comes to set us free. Free from what? Sin; sins prisons;
      - (1) *"So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free."* (John 8:36, NLT)

- (2) Luke 4:18-ff. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to ...free people. Free captives, heal sick, cast out devils and proclaim the Kingdom of God.
2. Jesus sanctifies us by truth.
    - a) God's Word is truth and as we walk in we are made holy. *"Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth."* (John 17:17, NLT)
    - b) Lies defile us but the truth sanctifies us. It sets us apart to be like God. *"And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth."* (John 17:19, NLT)
  - C. He gave us the Spirit of Truth
    1. The Spirit talks to us about the Son. *"But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me."* (John 15:26, NLT) He reveals Jesus to us. We need the Holy Spirit because He guides us into all truth. In other words He guides us into FREEDOM!
    2. *"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future."* (John 16:13, NLT)

### III. Start Breaking Out Today

- A. Recognize that you are in a prison, have a problem—so own it.
  1. This is the first step out. Ie. A sinner does not get saved until he truly realizes he is eternally separated from God. An AA meeting starts with: "Hi, Im Bill, Im an alcoholic."
  2. Realize your problem affects others around you. This can help supply motivation to change.
- B. Find/determine the lie(s) you are believing that is keeping you in your prison.
  1. Examine your emotions/feelings: fear, self pity, anger, unforgiveness, bitterness, etc.
  2. Ask yourself "Why? Why do I feel this?" Look back to when this became an issue. When did it start? Why did it start.
  3. Who told you the lie? Parent? Friend? An ex? Yourself?
  4. What are the triggers that stir it up? What are the patterns that lead you into your prison? Acknowledge this is your issue and not trigger activator/or button pusher. Change the patterns if you can.
- C. Find the truth(s) that will replace the lie.
  1. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you! He guides us into all truth and reveals Jesus to us.
  2. Spend time with Jesus and do not focus on your prison. Focus on him! *"But that isn't what you learned about Christ. Since you have heard about Jesus **and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.**"* (Ephesians 4:20-24, NLT)
  3. Renew your mind, thoughts attitudes. Rom 12:1
    - a) Memorize the truth and speak it until you own it.

- b) And throw off the old nature.
- c) Let the truth begin to define you. Speak it. And believe it.
- D. Know that faith in the Word is what activates it!
  - 1. David activated the Word while tending sheep.
  - 2. Joshua and Caleb activated their faith as they spied out the land.
  - 3. Faith comes by hearing the message/the Truth!
- E. Don't do it alone. Bring someone else along side of you to help you stay focused.
- F. You have to stay after it until the change is made and it has become a part of you. That is what being a disciple is about.

**Conclusion:**

- William Wallace proposed that the infantry fight the English Calvary. Calvary had never been beat until that time. Fact: The calvary always wins! The Lie: We cannot beat the calvary. But the Scotts did it! Thanks to William Wallace, shrewd planning and courageous men.