

Set Free From Bondage

John 8

Introduction:

1. Have you ever found yourself in bondage to somebody or something?
 - Illustration: Being stuck in an elevator at a store.
2. The word "bondage" is defined as "servitude to a controlling force or person."
3. Did you know that Satan (the devil) is the author of bondage? He specializes in it. 2 Timothy 2:26
 - He uses his power to enslave people in their own sinful tendencies, sinful lusts, carnal pleasures, and their own internal fears. John 8:34; Romans 6:17
4. Of course, Satan works undercover. He doesn't advertise it as bondage. He advertises it as fun, exciting, pleasurable, and exhilarating. He calls it "partying hard" or "getting high" or "living it up." But he ends up ensnaring you into bondage.
5. Maybe you feel as if you are in bondage today. You feel a heavy load of guilt and shame. Maybe you have an addictive habit, unresolved anger or bitterness, or maybe some sort of mental stronghold. But it has you in bondage.
6. I've got awesome news for you. You can be set free! This was part of the message that Christ commissioned Paul to proclaim to the nations. Acts 26:18
 - Christ told Paul to take the message that people don't have to wander aimlessly in the darkness and bondage of Satan. They can be turned from Satan unto God.
7. It may feel like Satan has you "down for the count," but you can be loosed and set free.
8. Every person can be set free from the bondage of Satan. This is the message that we as a church must take to the people of this world.
9. Jesus reveals how in John 8. This chapter begins with a woman who had supposedly been taken in adultery. Her accusers gathered around her and were ready to stone her.
 - Shame and death epitomized her. She was a product of Satan's bondage, but Jesus set her free!
10. Then, He explains how every person can be set free. It's very simple, but very liberating.

First, you must admit and confess your condition of bondage.

1. Jesus addressed a group of religious people. They were religious and believed in God, yet they were in bondage to Satan. Jesus makes this very clear. vs. 23, 24, 34, 41, 44
2. Here is the sad part: Most of these people were still in bondage after this encounter with Christ because they could not admit that they had a problem and needed Christ's help.

- Jesus offered to set them free, but they wouldn't even admit that they were bound (vs. 32-33). They just didn't get it (vs. 39-41). Verse 45 sums it up.
3. So many people are like this, today. Satan has them in bondage to money, possessions, their jobs, sinful lusts, addictive habits, their own pride and ego, bitterness, and unforgiveness. But yet, like these people, they think, "I'm not in bondage to any man."
 - People think, "I'm my own man. I live to please me. I'm free." They are too blind to see that they are under the power and control of Satan. They are doing Satan's will. vs. 44
 - The longer we live in denial and continue with the status quo, the deeper and stronger the bondage.
 - Remember the illustration of being stuck in an elevator? Until you're willing to admit and confess your bondage, you're not going to get help. You have to cry for help!
 4. You will never be set free from the bondage of Satan until you **want** to be set free.
 - Illustration: Blind Bartimaeus. Mark 10:47-48

Second, you must place your total faith in the great liberator, Jesus Christ.

1. Once we admit our condition of bondage, we must turn to the only One who can help us - the only One who ever defeated and conquered sin and Satan in totality, Jesus Christ.
 - He has already wrought the victory, and **His** victory can be **our** victory if we place our faith and trust in Him. (Acts 26:18 "*by faith that is in me*")
2. Satan is all about bondage; Christ is all about freedom and liberty. vs. 31, 32, 35-36
3. If you want to be set free from Satan's bondage, your faith must be in Christ.

Faith in Christ's finished work

- Jesus' sacrifice for sin on the cross is a finished and completed work, and all sufficient.
- Once you place your faith in His finished work, you are no longer a slave to sin.
- You are in Christ, and sin's power has been broken. You positionally change from Satan's family to God's family. Satan has no right of ownership or authority over you.
- Satan is a defeated foe, but he is committed to keeping you from realizing that. If he can convince you that you are just a product of your past, subject to sin, and controlled by your habits, then he can block your effectiveness as a Christian and keep you chained and bound to your sin.
- You are free in Christ, but if the devil can deceive you into believing you are not, you won't experience the freedom of your inheritance in Christ.

Faith in Christ's Word

- Jesus' words are truth, but these people wouldn't believe His words. They chose to believe the lies of Satan. vs. 31-32, 44-47
- Remember this: Freedom from spiritual bondage is not a **power** encounter; it is a **truth** encounter. This is why we must get His Word to the nations.
- Satan is a deceiver, but the truth of God's Word exposes him. His power is in the lie. But truth is a liberating agent. God's power is in the truth. Matthew 22:29; 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- You must place your faith in, and take your stand on, the written Word of God. You don't out-shout or out-muscle Satan, you simply out-truth him. Believe, declare, and act on the truth of God's Word. This is what Christ did in the wilderness.

In Conclusion:

1. If Satan has you in bondage in any way, you don't have to stay there. You can be set free.
2. You simply must admit and confess your bondage, and then place your faith in the great liberator, Jesus Christ. Place your faith in His finished work and in His finished Word.
3. Satan doesn't want you to know that you can be set free. 2 Timothy 2:25-26