Free At Last! Free At Last!

Tony Mauck · John 8:31–36

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus came to bring freedom to captives.
- But freedom is not an absolute. And that's the point that I want you to get in this sermon this morning.

1 A Young Man Who Just Wanted to Be Free

Luke 15:11–13

- And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into the distant country. And there he squandered his estate with loose living.
- Finally, the young son was free. Free from his father and the things that the father imposed on him to do.
- He was free from obligations. There wasn't any curfew or work any longer. He was free to do his own thing.

2 He Only Exchanged One Form of Bondage for Another

Luke 15:14–19

- The strange thing that happens in the story of the prodigal son is that the more he got what he wanted, the less he wanted what he got.
- He had only exchanged one form of bondage for another. You can free yourself from obligation to God, but if you do that, you will just run into the arms of another master.
- Could it be that God's restraints are meant to protect us from our own weaknesses?
- This is the high cost of low living. No absolute freedom. Everybody pays a master.

3 Gird Your Minds and Keep Sober in Spirit

1 Peter 1:13–16

- This is precisely what Peter is telling us here when he tells us to gird our minds for action and to keep sober in spirit.
- His sobriety came when the pain started.
- Don't be conformed to the former lusts, which are yours in your ignorance, but be holy in all your behavior.

4 Freed From Sin and Enslaved to God

Romans 6:21–22

- We need to be hemmed in by his teaching and his example. We need those restraints in our lives.

- You're always in bondage to something, remember that.
- But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit.
- The freedom God gives is the freedom to let you be all that God designed you to be.

5 The True Fetters

Psalm 2:3; Matthew 11:30

- Let us cast their cords away from us. Let us tear their fetters off. And that's how often people look at the restrictions of righteousness.
- Jesus Himself called it a yoke in Matthew chapter 11, but he says, my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
- It's not a choice between total freedom and total slavery. It's whose slave you are.
- If you learn to exercise self-control, there is strength there. That's true strength. It is weakness to succumb.

6 It Was for Freedom That Christ Set Us Free

Galatians 5:1; Galatians 5:13; Galatians 5:22–23

- In Galatians 5 and verse 1, it was for freedom that Christ set us free.
- Do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh. But through love serve one another.
- Jesus didn't come to give us freedom to then do whatever we want.
- Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law or restriction.

THE CHALLENGE

If you come to your senses, like the prodigal son did, and realize that in the Father's house is where all real blessings are, and from which they flow. And would you embrace his provisions of salvation?

MY NOTES