

## Sermon Study Guide (October 30, 2022)

**This Week:** Setting Captives Free

**Series:** The Jesus-Shaped Gospel

**Passage:** Luke 4:18. 21; Galatians 5:1

**BIG IDEA:** The good news is not a sin-focused gospel; it's a freedom-focused gospel.



### APPETIZER: Let's chat!

**Group Discussion:** Freedom is something that most of us in North America value. Our movies tell stories about freedom, we protest for our freedom, and we embrace freedom as part of our Christian walk. What is so special about freedom? And what does freedom mean to us? Does freedom mean the same thing to everyone?



### MAIN COURSE: Getting into the text.

1. **Have someone read Luke 4:18. 21**
2. **Context:** Jesus read from the text of Isaiah about God setting the captives free, and then declares that something about him reading the text meant that the promise of Isaiah would start to be realized on that day.
3. **Question:** What did Jesus mean when he said he came to set the captives free?
4. **Question:** One of the issues we have with embracing the freedom God gives us through Jesus, is sin; as Paul said in Romans 7:14-15, we do want we don't want to do, and do what we hate. Bono, the lead singer of U2, expressed the same thing in one of his earlier songs, when he wrote, "You broke the bones and loosed the chains, carried the cross of my shame... you know I believe it... But I still haven't found what I'm looking for. **Why do we still wrestle with sin even though we are supposed to find freedom in Christ?**
5. **Group Discussion:** Christians have had many discussions about what happened on the cross when Jesus died. Pastor Jeff presented the idea of the cross being God's victory over the "principalities and powers" of this world, where sin was condemned to death as it surrounded Jesus (Romans 8:3). This particular view of atonement is called "Christus Victor". How is this view different from some other perspectives of what happened on the cross?
6. **Discussion:** One of the key points of the sermon was that the gospel is not a sin-focused gospel but a freedom-focused gospel. Why is that important to differentiate? Does this phrase dismiss sin as part of the equation of the gospel or does it just put sin in its proper place? How would a freedom-focused gospel change our approach to people that are new to the

faith or exploring the faith while embracing different moral values than ours? Do you think Christians have spent too much time focused on sin rather than on the fact that we can have our sins forgiven? How would this perspective change the way we live? Or would it?



## **DESSERT: How do we respond?**

**Good news:** We have been invited into embracing freedom in Christ as a lifestyle!

**Read:** Galatians 5:1 and ask: What does a life of freedom look like for the imperfect Christian?

**Question for reflection and prayer:** What is the Holy Spirit saying to you about how the good news is operating in your life? What does freedom require of you...

-This week? In particular relationships? In your personal spiritual walk?

Reflect individually: If good news is participating in “setting the captives free” what does it look like for us to set captives free? What does it look like for us to “die so that others may live?”

## **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Take time to pray for one another before closing.