

Our Jubilee King

Pastor Justin

~ Leviticus 25; Isaiah 61; Luke 4 & Matthew 25

March 29, 2026

ME: WE:

Good Morning!

If you could reset one part of your life... what would it be?

- Debt gone?
- Regret erased?
- Relationships restored?
- A fresh start?

Most of us don't want little improvements, we just want a full release and reset.

Some people look at all their accumulation of boxes in the basement and would rather throw a match onto the whole pile, than deal with each box and its contents.

Well, God actually gave the Israelites a giant reset button.

Every 50 years, God commanded the Israelites to have a massive practical economic and social reset.

*It was called the **Year of Jubilee**.*

GOD:

- God built freedom and liberty into the story of His people
- Let's take a look at Leviticus 25 together.

Leviticus 25

¹ The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, ² “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord. ³ For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, ⁴ but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. ⁵ You shall not reap what grows of itself in your harvest, or gather the grapes of your undressed vine. It shall be a year of solemn rest for the land. ⁶ The Sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired worker and the sojourner who lives with you, ⁷ and for your cattle and for the wild animals that are in your land: all its yield shall be for food.

The Year of Jubilee

⁸ “You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. ⁹ Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan. ¹¹ That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines. ¹² For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field.,

We see that Leviticus 25 starts with a rhythm

- Every 7 years > the land rests
- People and animals rest
- No planting, no harvesting

- They can survive off year 6, and what the land produces
- Trust God to provide

This alone is radical.

Because God is saying:

“You are not slaves to productivity &” Your survival doesn’t depend on your effort, it depends on My provision.”

But then God goes further.

After 7 cycles of 7 years on year 50, in verse 10 he says:

“Proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.” (Lev 25:10)

That word **liberty** (Hebrew: *deror*)

means **release, freedom, flowing restoration**

This is not small. It was a total reset.

In the Jubilee year, God laid out what that would look like:

- **The land Sabbath continues (49th & 50th)**
- **Land ownership restored** to original owners, so families get their inheritance back

(sold land and themselves to get out of debt)

Land wasn’t *sold* permanently. It was leased based on how close you were to Jubilee.

Which means the system was designed so no one could permanently lose everything, and no one could permanently accumulate everything

- **Debts cancelled** -
- **Slaves set free** and no one stuck in lifelong bondage
- **If sold to foreigners**, they had to be able to be redeemed, usually by a kinsmen.

God was building a society where freedom was protected.

And here's where it gets heavy> We have record of Sabbath years being practiced.

But Jubilee? **Nothing**. No clear evidence it ever fully happened.

Why?

Because Jubilee required

Trusting God with your future

Releasing control

Letting go of power and wealth

And humanity struggles with all three.

God commanded freedom, but His people couldn't bring themselves to live it out.

Jubilee sounds beautiful, until it costs you something.

Freedom is easy to celebrate until it requires some sacrifice.

We all love the idea of Jubilee, but not enough to obey it.

So Jubilee became something other than a command, it became a longing.

ISAIAH

Now fast forward. Let's look at the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah was written over a long period of time. The first half is warning Israel that if they don't follow God's commands, that they will find themselves in exile.

The second half is written after they do indeed find themselves in exile.

The second half talks about the coming messiah – the suffering servant, the coming King.

And then in chapter 61, Isaiah starts talking about something familiar...but deeper.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

This is Jubilee language... but expanded:

Not just a year of liberty for land, debt, and slaves. Now what Isaiah calls the Year of the Lord's Favor, is actually an even greater image of liberty for the people.

Also, in context, Isaiah is saying 'There is a greater Jubilee coming, and it will come through the Messiah.'

And for people actually living as captives in a foreign land, this was more than a theology, it was their hope!

Imagine how much the idea of Jubilee would mean to them now?

Having their land returned. Being able to be redeemed from captivity by a kinsmen redeemer?

This is really deep for them.

JESUS

Fast forward again!

Luke Chapter 4. Near the start of his ministry, Jesus walks into a synagogue and is invited to read. He reads Isaiah 61

Sits down and says "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

This is massive.

Jesus is not saying "I will bring Jubilee."

He's saying: "**I am Jubilee.**"

- I am your good news
- I am your freedom
- I am your reset
- I am your release

- I am your liberty

Everything Leviticus pointed to...

Everything Isaiah longed for...

Finds its fulfillment in Him.

PALM SUNDAY

Today is Palm Sunday – that's the day when Jesus arrived at Jerusalem just before he was arrested.

He comes into Jerusalem riding a donkey – everyone is waving palm branches shouting 'Hosanna!'

Which means 'Save us!'

They expected Jesus to come and become their king and save them from Roman rule, restoring their land back to the Jews once again.

But Jesus came in humbly > riding a donkey.

He wasn't planning to overthrow Rome, he came to overthrow SIN

They wanted political liberty > Jesus was going to give them freedom from everything that enslaved them.

He is the Jubilee King

YOU:

MATTHEW 25

I think most believers understand that part. But here's what people forget.

If Jesus is Jubilee then his people should look like Jubilee

Now let's back up a little bit and go to Matthew chapter 25, where Jesus is sharing a prophetic vision of the final judgement, where it says he's separating people into two categories: the sheep and the goats

Matthew

25:33–40

33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,[f] you did it to me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' 45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

This isn't random kindness; this is Jubilee in action.

- Feeding the hungry
- Welcoming the outsider
- Visiting the prisoner

This is the same heartbeat from Leviticus and vision from Isaiah.

Now placed in the hands of the Church.

We are responsible to do these things for the least, the most oppressed in society, the least benefited in society.

And when we do it for the least of these we are doing it for Jesus.

And this is not an optional command.

And I'll be honest, some of you will have a very hard heart towards this.

Again this is a very easy ideal that we like to look at and talk about and say amen to but it's a very different thing when it starts to cost you something to bring this freedom to others.

Jesus paid the price for our freedom and he's called us to be people who share that same liberty with others.

But do we believe it enough even when it costs us something?

We love the idea of being set free but we resist the responsibility of setting others free.

We hear believers talk in ways that don't speak about this kind of liberty and freedom. You'll hear things like, "Well no one helped me so why should I help them? Nobody paid my debt; why should I pay their debt?"

But that's not justification. That's evidence you've forgotten grace.

Grace that stops with you was never understood by you.

If your faith doesn't move your heart towards people, then it's not reflecting the call of Jesus.

Instead, here's the response to that we should be having.

Ask the Holy Spirit now to show you the hungry, the thirsty, the immigrant, the criminal.

Ask Him to give you a heart of mercy and grace towards them. To fill you with compassion, to take action to help them rather than just complain about them.

Some people expect the government to step in on these issues and do it for us.

And to be fair, our political vote should reflect the values of Christ. But no government system is going to do it perfectly.

Other people will blame the church. They'll look around and say, "Well my church doesn't do enough in these areas."

But we need to get out of that bondage thinking. Because the reality is, you can't fix politics. You can't fix the whole church.

But you are responsible for your obedience.

Ask yourself: Who are you feeding? Who are you helping? Who are you welcoming?

And not rhetorically, not spirit, just spiritually but physically as well.

And let the Holy Spirit soften your heart and lead you into the expression of the true jubilee of Jesus Christ.

However

There's another group of people who have received this liberty from Jesus, being set free but they don't live like it.

Some of you are still carrying shame, guilt, sin, and an identity tied to your past

You are living like Jubilee hasn't happened.

Stop trying to pay a debt that Jesus already cancelled. Live in the freedom he's given you.

Ask the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, do I live like I am truly free? Are there areas in my life that I am bound and chained?

And as the church, all of this stuff that we've been talking about, this is where it gets real because freedom is not comfort; freedom is calling. Because you weren't just set free in order to feel better, you were set free to live differently.

WE:

Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church has existed for 50 years.

And it's always been a deep honour to be part of a church that is doing so much of this.

I came to this church when I was eighteen years old and I've always seen people doing things, living this out faithfully, quietly, and consistently.

And I know for me it's always a challenge that I don't want to outsource my obedience. I don't want to be able to point at others and say, "Well they've got it covered and so I, by extension, get credit."

But instead, I, just like you, get to choose to be part of what God is doing among us.

So consider what's your next step in living towards Jubilee? You're going to find somewhere to serve, to give, to visit somebody, to invite people to share the gospel.

Don't overthink it; just start somewhere and move towards people.

What if year 50 and beyond wasn't just about looking back but rather stepping forward into Jubilee?

What if, as we consider how we are moving forward from here, we strive to become

- A church where people find freedom.
- A church where no one is invisible.
- A church where needs are met.
- A church where grace is tangible.

Not perfectly but faithfully. Not because it's trendy but because it's what Jesus commanded.

Gospel Call:

If you're not a Christian: You are not free. Not fully.

Because sin holds you.

But Jesus came to release you.

He lived.

He died.

He rose again.

So your debt could be cancelled.

Your shame removed.

Your life restored.

You don't earn this. You receive it.

Will you put your trust in him? Ask him to forgive you for your sins and enjoy the freedom that Jesus has proclaimed

so that you can be set free and you can live free and you can help others find that same freedom.

Let's pray.

Lord Jesus, you are our Jubilee. You are the one who proclaimed liberty, cancelled our debt, and set us free from everything that held us captive. Today we celebrate you as our King, not the kind of king we expected, but the kind we desperately needed.

We confess we have at times been hoarding the freedom you bought for us. We confess that we have been celebrating grace while withholding it from others. And at times we have been living like the debt hasn't been cancelled when you paid it in full.

Holy Spirit, do your work in us now. Soften hard hearts. Remind the bound that they are free. Awaken the comfortable to the calling in front of them. Show us the hungry, the stranger, the forgotten, and give us the courage to move toward them.

As we step into year 50 and beyond, make us a people who look like what Jesus proclaimed. Not perfectly, but faithfully. Because freedom is not just something we received. It is something we carry into the world.

In the name of our Jubilee King, Amen.

Benediction

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery...

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5