
Digging Deeper and Rising Higher

What are the things that still bind you, even after Christ has set you free? Is it pain? Is it guilt? Is the disappointment you have with your life as it really is? Find someone this week to share with, a brother or sister who can remind you that “we don’t allow any chains around here.”

Who are the people who need freedom in your life? Where specifically do they need it? What, specifically, can you do to bring the freedom of Christ into their bondage?

Some Thoughts to Take With You

If you are a preacher of mercy, do not preach an imaginary but the true mercy. If the mercy is true, you must therefore bear the true, not an imaginary sin. God does not save those who are only imaginary sinners. Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong, but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world. We will commit sins while we are here, for this life is not a place where justice resides. We, however, says Peter (2. Peter 3:13) are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth where justice will reign. It suffices that through God’s glory we have recognized the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. No sin can separate us from Him, even if we were to kill or commit adultery thousands of times each day. Do you think such an exalted Lamb paid merely a small price with a meager sacrifice for our sins? Pray hard for you are quite a sinner.

Martin Luther, Let Your Sins Be Strong

What Binds You?

Luke 13:10-17

Introduction: Jesus miraculously frees a woman bound by sickness despite the angry and hypocritical opposition of a synagogue official. In loosening her bonds he demonstrates himself to be the glorious one and ensures that there will be a reckoning for hypocrites who place their religiosity over untying people in bondage. What binds you? Are you bound by sin and pain from your past or are you bound the hypocrisy of your present? Hear this message today: Jesus offers freedom.

The woman: bound by the effects of sin.

Luke 13:11-13

Bound by sin
Freed by the Lord

The official: bound by hypocrisy

Luke 13:14

Bound by hypocrisy
Freedom is offered

The Lord: bringing a kingdom of freedom

Luke 13:15-16

He exposes the official
He defends “this woman”

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