

REACHING FREEDOM TOGETHER

“The Truth of the King and Kingdom Sets Us Free”

(John 8:31-32; John 15; Galatians 5:1, 22-24)

We've been talking about REACHING FREEDOM TOGETHER and we are discovering that we cannot attain freedom unless we embrace the TRUTH. Jesus said in John 8:31-32,

*“If you **ABIDE** in My word, you are truly My disciples and you will know the truth, and the truth will see you free.”*

So our freedom is dependent upon A KNOWING. Knowing is dependent upon BEING, that of being a disciple of Jesus. And this being is dependent upon an ABIDING! Jesus said if you abide in My word, you will BE My disciples and you will KNOW the truth, and the truth will set you FREE!

“And Mary [a virgin] said to the angel, 'How will this be since I do not know (ginōskō = which in this case meant sexual intimacy) a man?’” (Luke 1:34)

As we ABIDE in His Word we become disciplined in the ways of Christ. And as we become His disciples, we come to KNOW Him intimately as THE TRUTH and it is this TRUTH that reaches deep into us thus producing genuine FREEDOM!

The sum total of what all this means is that ...

❖ ABIDING CREATES A BINDING

- Abide In Him

Paul says it this way:

*“For freedom Christ has set us free; **stand firm** therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1)*

In other words, STAND FIRM means to ABIDE IN this freedom. Do not remove yourself from the truth that sets you free.

Last week, we said that ...

The Bible is About a King; the Bible is About a Royal Family; the Bible is About a Kingdom; the Bible is About a Government; and the Bible is About a Colonization Process (which is the entire project of the Bible).

But how is the earth earth colonized?

God wanted to extend His invisible Kingdom to a physical planet - the earth. In other words, God wanted to colonize earth with heaven. This is the idea and plan of God! To do this,

- God is Filling the Earth with His Glory

The word for glory in Hebrew is the word 'kabod' which simply means heavy. It means weight. The word also means impact, impression or imprint. It means the weight is so heavy that it leaves an imprint. Therefore glory means an imprint because of weight.

- The Glory of God is the Culture of Heaven

The word glory also means true essence. Simply put the word glory means culture. Culture follows people. Another way of saying this is that Glory follows people.

So when the Bible says the earth will be filled with the glory of God, it is talking about the culture of God.

- The Dominion Mandate is the Purpose of God for Man

Dominion means influence on earth. That's the idea! That's why God uses you. You are useful to His purpose in the earth. (Genesis 1:26) So what are the tools that God use in our lives to make this impact upon the earth? How does the Kingdom of God emerge in a world that seems destined for hell?

In order to answer these questions, we must return to the concept of ABIDING and the concept of fruit.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing". (John 15:1-5)

- The Fruit of the Spirit (John 15; Galatians 5:22-24)

Galatians 5 gives us a list of things that our flesh naturally produces. These things, if operational in our lives, will cause us to not inherit the Kingdom. But then, verses 22-24 tell us there is the fruit of the Spirit which make an impact or impression upon this world. Galatians 5:22-24 says,

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

- Through Love, Joy, and Peace

These are Upward Expressions toward God. They are expressions of the heart, our attitude toward God.

- Love towards the Lord produces love toward fellow man.
- Joy in the Lord produces joy in dealing with others.
- Peace with God produces peace in life with all mankind.

These things that are the fruit of the Spirit are first fruits to the realization of the Kingdom! It begins with our heart toward God that impacts the world around us! But we also make an impact ...

- ▶ Through Patience, Kindness, Goodness

These are Outward Expressions toward others.

- Patience with others settles our hearts in the midst of situations.
- Kindness toward others brings forth wisdom in the midst of situations.
- Goodness toward others is the work that brings result in situations.

- ▶ Through Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control

These are Inward Expressions that govern us from within. These are spiritual principles that steady our hearts and guide our Christian conduct.

Conclusion:

"Jesus answered them, 'Do you now believe? 32 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. 33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.'"