

Sermon Outline - Sun, December 18, 2022

Jesus is Jubilee – Walking the Line Between Restoration and Revolution
Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:22-38

Overview of Month – We are in the last two weeks of our series Jesus as Jubilee. We have looked at how Jesus is born into a tribe of relations, we have looked at how to gift in this season in a Jubilee way, we have walked through how Jesus was a Miracle in the Midst of Mess – exploring the principles of Release, Rely and Restore. Today we go a little deeper at the principal of Restoration in this season.

Exegesis

- The idea that every 50 years things are restored to God's original plan is a central part of the Jubilee practice. After all the dramas, traumas and injustices that can lead to deep inequality the practice calls for things to be restored to a kind of balance.
- 50 years is a good time for a society, but after many centuries of waiting for the Israelites to practice Jubilee, after multiple times when they are conquered and restored, Jesus' coming is a moment of powerful for the Children of Israel.
- The Roman Empire controls their political system, their religious system and all of the economic conditions that make it particularly hard for folks to make ends meet.
- It is a time when people have a deep desire for someone to save them, to restore Israel
- Jesus doesn't just bring Restoration – but also Revolution. He says we can go back to the big picture of what God calls us to – (I come to fulfill the law) but I also am calling you to change habits that have kept this community from fulfilling its Kin(g)dom potential.

Key Points – How to live at the intersection of Restoration and Revolution

1. Focus on God's vision and values for the World.
2. Invite Spirit to restore broken and lost people, places and practices.
3. Invite Spirit to revolutionize places where change is needed.

We are in the last 2 wks of the year at the end of a pandemic - in a time of clear transition – Advent - anticipation, the Winter Solstice, Kwanzaa, and the New Year. This is a moment for deep reflection and the opportunity to lean into this moment to embrace Restoration and Revolution

Reflection Questions -

1. Begin your reflection today. As you look at our post-pandemic world – Where have we grown as a people? Where do we still need some change?
2. What things have we/you lost that you feel called to revive? Where do we/you need some revolution to shake things up?
3. This congregation is in the same place as the rest of the world, trying to figure out what things we should bring back that we lost in the pandemic and what things we need to allow to be shaken up and changed. How can you contribute to the shifts that God might be calling us to in the new year? Where are the links between your calling and the journey of this congregation?