

Sermon Outline - Sun, October 23, 2020 - Jubilee – RELEASE
(Leviticus 25:8-12; Isaiah 43:16-19)

Review – This month we are looking at the principles of Jubilee. Every 7 years God say Israel should take a Sabbath year and every 50 years will be the Year of Jubilee. They never practiced it completely because they never fully embraced the practices that underlie Jubilee – REST, RELY, RESET, RELEASE, RESTORE, REJOICE. We are going to explore the first two next week (Rest, Rely). Last week we talked about the principle of Reset. We talked about the fact that God recognizes that things will go wrong. God calls us to have a practice of reflection and then to plan for course corrections and resets. This week we lean into Release

Exegesis

- Strong companion to Reset. You can't walk into a new way of being if you are holding on to old ways of being. To pick up something new you need free hands.
- Easy to see why this would work for folks that are struggling, but much harder for folks who were doing well. Even if they could theoretically recognize that the system was a problem, could they let go of what they have gotten from the system
- Jesus calls us to a radical shift that challenges the status quo, but we can't walk into it that unless we are willing to walk lighter.

Key Points – RELEASE – The three tangible practices

1. **Freedom** from slavery. This is an obvious benefit of Jubilee. For folks who had been enslaved or imprisoned it gave them a concrete time when they would be released.
2. **Forgiveness** of one another's debts and past hurts to walk into a new way. Even if we release the physical consequences we can hold on to the emotional grudges of the past. You can't move forward and do something new unless you release the past.
3. **Forego Privilege** that have built up. It seems obvious with things acquired in a bad way, but what about places where we feel like we just made the "more wise decision" or instances where you inherited something. How to release things that have come to be important to you (land you have connected with, house where you have memories.)

The freedom part was the easiest, the folks directly affected could clearly lean into this practice. The forgiveness starts to get harder and the foregoing of privilege was most likely the hardest of all. These same challenges are an issue for us. Easy to call for justice, but can we let go of the past hurts and harder still can those who have benefitted from inequity let go? If we are going to find Jubilee as a community we have to lean into these hard practices of release.

Core Questions –

1. Where are you in need of freedom to move towards Jubilee?
2. Where are you holding on to unforgiveness that is preventing you from moving towards a Jubilee reset?
3. What form of privilege do you have to release so that we can all move towards equity in Jubilee?