

Sermon Guide



"Being Set Free" **July 24th, 2022**

"¹² If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵ If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother."

Matthew 18:7-35

In this Sunday's teaching, JC talked about following Christ in a way that is characterized by freedom. When we look around at fellow believers, do we see amazement in others' eyes? Are we carried along by the Spirit? Do we see beautiful vistas ahead? Are we really free?

- 1. JC said that we are tempted to choose large churches for the convenience what we receive from them.** Take a moment to evaluate your life in the body of Christ. Do you use your gifts? Do you see a balance between the way you are built up and how you build up the Church? Or are you simply consuming church? (As JC said, this question isn't meant to shame. We all must take stock of our lives regularly.)
- 2. JC said, "You can pluck out your eye. You can cut off your hand. [But] if you don't do work on your heart, you are doomed by that sin."** What part of your heart do you desire to see transformed by God? Is there a habitual sin that stems from an untransformed area of your heart?
- 3. Jesus shares a parable about the Shepherd who goes in search of the one lost sheep.** JC asked us to consider those in our spiritual community who go astray. He said we feel discomfort when we are challenged to love those individuals. What situations or relationships came to mind during the teaching? Is God prompting you to step out in faith in those relationships?
- 4. Jesus says that "if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."** Jesus' words come during a teaching about forgiveness and restoration of relationship. To properly value unity, we must practice what Jesus teaches, including regularly bringing up if an offense occurs (in order to restore a relationship), pursuing those who demonstrate concerning behavior, etc. Unity must be actively pursued, not passively assumed. With that in mind, do you practice unity? Are there areas you long to grow?

We often talk about taking your next step of faith with Jesus. As you reflect on this week's teaching, what is the next step of faith you'll commit to?

This teaching guide asked specific questions about areas you long to grow. Pray for one another, asking the Spirit for freedom (2 Cor. 3:17).