

**LYN as Yourself**  
**Love Your Incarcerated Neighbor**  
**First Christian Church—June 18, 2017**  
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**I was in prison...**

**BIG Idea:** Throughout God's Story, judgment and punishment were never an *end in themselves* and never the *end of the story*. Judgment and the resulting punishment or consequence is ALWAYS for the purpose of restoration. God is at work in every single one of our lives to bring about repentance so that he can restore us to each other and to himself.

- Jeremiah 15:1-2, 5-6, 13-14, 19a

**GOD's Story, Love Your Incarcerated Neighbor as Yourself, Hebrews 13:1-3**

**Christian Empathy:** *Imagining \_\_\_\_\_ in the same \_\_\_\_\_ as those who are having \_\_\_\_\_.*

- Matthew 7:12

Why do you think God's heart for the *prisoner* keeps popping up in scripture?

1. Matthew 25:36 Why does he want us to care for them and visit them?
2. Luke 4:18 Why is he interested in their freedom? Is this unconditional amnesty?

God wants to set the prisoner free from what got them into to prison in the first place!

**We have a great opportunity to fill a gap— to be there— in the lives of the incarcerated in our prisons and right here in our community.**

- ASM Mentors-
- House of Refuge Mentors-

- Psalm 142:7

May God use us to fulfill this scripture in the lives of the incarcerated in our state.

**Right On!**