



Too Blessed to Be Bound // John 11:44

John 11:44 (NASB) ⁴⁴The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

I'M TOO BLESSED TO BE BOUND

I said last week in case you took a necessary, deserved vacation that the goal of this series was that you become **Free In Every Area Of Your Life.**

We also discovered according to John 8:36 and 2 Corinthians 3:17 that **Freedom Is Available.**

We are working toward FREEDOM in four areas:

- Spiritually
- Emotionally
- Financially
- Psychologically

PMJ's definition of freedom is:

Freedom is the **ability** to **BE** what GOD called you, the **conviction** to **DO** what GOD told you, and the **wisdom** to **CHOOSE** what's God's will for my life. -PMJ

Freedom involves Deliverance & Discipleship

Luke 9:23 (NASB)

²³ And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself**, and **take up his cross daily** and **follow Me.**

What's the **1st Freedom God gave** man? Freedom of **Choice**

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Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are **free** to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Freedom & Bondage start and end with a **Choice!**

A lot of people are busy rebuking a devil that didn't make the decision! The Devil gives Options, You Make the Decisions

1 Samuel 15:22 (NLT)

²² But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! **Obedience is better than sacrifice**, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.

The Best Gift You can Give GOD is your **Obedience**.

You will either have a **Heart of Obedience or Heart of Disobedience**.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NLT)

²² But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! **Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.** ²³ Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has **rejected you** as king."

Disobedience produces **Rebellion**, and Rebellion causes **Rejection**

Lastly, and I ran out a time, but we stopped with the idea that freedom needs to be viewed out of two lenses our goal by the end of the month is to be able to declare that we are....

Free From _____ and **Free To** _____

The most important freedom God has given us is **Freedom From The Bondage Of Sin**.

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We shouted when I read... **Romans 6:6-7 (NASB)** ⁶knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷for he who has died is **freed from sin**.

Whatever you are struggling with, I need you making daily announcements that...

I'm Free From That!

And **that** is whatever has you bound! But now remember our aim is not just spiritual freedom but freedom in every area of our lives!

In this weekend's selected biblical text, we see what, to many of you, is a most familiar Johannine narrative – Long story short, Lazarus was dead and so were you!

Ephesians 2:1 (NASB) ¹And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

Ephesians 2:1 (NLT) ¹Once you were dead because of your **disobedience and your many sins**.

How can a man be living and yet be dead? To answer this question, we must understand what death means.

The basic meaning of death (*nekros*) is separation.

- Death never means extinction, annihilation, non-existence, or inactivity.

Death simply means that a person is separated, either **separated from his body** or **from God** or from both.

H.S. Miller says, "Death is the **separation** of a person from the **purpose** or use for which he was intended"

Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary - The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible – Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians.

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There are 3 different types of death a man can experience:

- **Physical death:** the *separation* of a man's spirit from his body
- **Spiritual death:** the separation of a man from God while he is still living and walking upon earth
- **Eternal death:** the separation of man from God's presence forever. This is the second death, an eternal state of being *dead to God*.

Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary - The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible – Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians.

So HEAR ME, IN LIFE YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE!

Job 14:1 (NKJV) ¹"Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.

BUT DISOBEDIENCE

John 10:10 (NASB) ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

The thief, that is, a false shepherd, cares only about feeding himself, not building up the flock. He steals sheep in order to kill them, thus destroying part of the flock. But Christ has come to benefit the sheep. He gives life which is not constricted but overflowing. The thief takes life; Christ gives it to the full.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

Thief vs. Robber

- You know what the Robber took! Problem is you don't what the THIEF TOOK...UNTIL YOU NEED IT!!!!

Free From **Mental** And **Emotional** Strongholds Of Every Kind

A **stronghold** is a **faulty thinking pattern based on lies and deception**.

Deception is one of the primary weapons of the devil, because it is the building blocks for a stronghold. What strongholds can do is **cause us to think in ways which block us from God's best!**

Danger of Strongholds is you see GOD incorrectly & yourself incorrectly!

- He doesn't love me
- I'm not worthy

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The process of deliverance often consists of three main parts:

- **Tearing down strongholds**
- **Removing legal rights**
- **Casting out the remaining demons.**

2 Corinthians 10:5 (KJV) ⁵Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Corinthians 10:5 (GW) ...We take every thought captive so that it is **obedient to Christ**.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (PMJ) Since my mind be playing tricks on me and I need to be obedient to GOD I've learned whenever negative thoughts hit my mind. When I THINK I THANK!

Philippians 4:8 (NASB) whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

Free From Unhealthy Relationships

The Lord absolutely wants you to fight to forgive and to get along: Look at...

Colossians 3:13 (NASB) ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Ephesians 4:1-3 (NASB) ¹Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

But here is the scripture you have to know for your personal sanity:

Romans 12:18 (NRSV) ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12:18 (NLT) ¹⁸Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

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Live at peace with everyone (cf. "live in harmony with one another,". But recognizing that limits exist, Paul included the words, **If it is possible, as far as it depends on you. Harmony with others may not always be achievable, but believers should not be responsible for that lack of peace.**

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The only people you are forced to deal with on a daily basis are your spouse and your children, not grown children. Everyone else's place in your personal space should be predicated on how they impact your Freedom. Unless and here is a caveat, the Holy Spirit has made someone your assignment.

- **Some people aren't worth your PEACE!**

God wants you free and at peace, not perfect but free to praise him, free to pursue him, free to have passion for him.

Married people come here-First of all, God wants you married forever!! Let me make that biblically clear.

Genesis 2:24 (NASB) ²⁴For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Matthew 19:6 (NASB) ⁶"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

Matthew 19:7-12 (MSG) ⁷They shot back in rebuttal, "If that's so, why did Moses give instructions for divorce papers and divorce procedures?" ⁸Jesus said, "Moses provided for divorce as a concession to your hardheartedness, but it is not part of God's original plan. ⁹I'm holding you to the original plan, and holding you liable for adultery if you divorce your faithful wife and then marry someone else. I make an exception in cases where the spouse has committed adultery." ¹⁰Jesus' disciples objected, "If those are the terms of marriage, we're stuck. Why get married?" ¹¹But Jesus said, "Not everyone is mature enough to live a married life. It requires a certain aptitude and grace. Marriage isn't for everyone. ¹²Some, from birth seemingly, never give marriage a thought. Others never get asked—or accepted. And some decide not to get married for kingdom reasons. But if you're capable of growing into the largeness of marriage, do it."

**There are 3 reasons that we believe are reasons for divorce.
Abuse, Adultery, or Abandonment**

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1 Corinthians 7:14-15 (NLT) ¹⁴For the Christian wife brings holiness to her marriage, and the Christian husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not be holy, but now they are holy. ¹⁵(But if the husband or wife who isn't a believer insists on leaving, let them go. In such cases the Christian husband or wife is no longer bound to the other, for **God has called you to live in peace.**)

Singles, you aren't excluded...

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 (MSG) ³²I want you to live as free of complications as possible. When you're unmarried, you're free to concentrate on simply pleasing the Master. ³³Marriage involves you in all the nuts and bolts of domestic life and in wanting to please your spouse, ³⁴leading to so many more demands on your attention. The time and energy that married people spend on caring for and nurturing each other, the unmarried can spend in becoming whole and holy instruments of God. ³⁵I'm trying to be helpful and make it as easy as possible for you, not make things harder. All I want is for you to be able to develop a way of life in which you can spend plenty of time together with the Master without a lot of distractions.

WHAT'S FREE? A SERMON SERIES