

# Freedom

## LifeLock Part 2

### **Romans 6 (Message)**

*But offer yourselves to the ways of God and the **freedom** never quits. All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do. But thank God you've started listening to a new master, one whose commands set you free to live openly in his **freedom**!*

- “New Master” **When we know whose we are, we can know who we are.**
- He has an endless supply of freedom but it's dependent on who I belong to.
- He's like a **revolving freedom factory**. [Reference Story: *Revolving Sushi Factory*]
- We don't have to earn it or pay for it. He's paid the bill. Freedom is on Him; we just need to access it through relationship.

### **The fight for freedom is a fight for identity.**

- Our identity isn't up for grabs. We get it from our Creator and to mess with it means you mess with Him.
- Identity isn't a choice. It's decided by our Heavenly Father. The choice is to accept or deny who He says I am.

**Identity Crisis:** *a period of uncertainty and confusion in which a person's sense of identity becomes insecure, typically due to a change in their expected aims or role in society.*

- John 10:10 Satan comes to STEAL...your enemy is an identity thief. He knows if he can rob your identity, he can steal your destiny.
- Fine but not free. Saved enough to go to Heaven but not enough to be dangerous to the Kingdom of darkness.

### **Jesus LifeLocks Identity**

#### STORY 1

***Luke 19:1-9 (NLT)**19 Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. <sup>2</sup> There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. <sup>3</sup> He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.” <sup>6</sup> Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. <sup>7</sup> But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.*

- His title was a tax collector, and his label was a notorious sinner. It couldn't even be spoken, it had to be grumbled.
- Zacch was a traitor and was getting rich off his own people. He was an outsider and thief until one day Jesus called him to come close. Close enough to hear His voice and look into His eyes...

*<sup>8</sup> Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"*

- Nobody told him to give back the money, but nobody had to. When He got close to Jesus, things started changing. When you get close to Jesus, things begin changing.

*<sup>9</sup> Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham."*

- Jesus had a new label for Zacchaeus. While the crowd called him a "sinner" Jesus called him a "son."
- **Zacchaeus means "pure and innocent"** (Jesus called by His true identity)
- He stepped down from the tree into a new identity, free to live a life of generosity.
- And his behavior was the result of his identity as a son.

### **True Freedom: Life transformation, not behavior modification.**

- Sometimes we look at freedom from the distance of the tree, It's "over there" but not in here (heart). *Sitting at Revolving Sushi Factory watching it just go by w/o accessing it.*
- Sometimes we don't want to come down from the tree because it means we have to change.
- So many are trying hard to find freedom from the tree. Stop trying and get close. Freedom is walking right by.

### **We become what we behold.**

- Zacchaeus let go of the tree that day to stand before the Lord.
- Losing the fight for identity?? What are you looking at? ("Your towards is off")
- "In the meantime," this is where we live today (while all this stuff was happening around him) **Beholding Jesus will always lead to greater freedom.**

**Ex.** *We see characteristics and traits in Emma and Timothy because of the time we spend together. It's a natural flow from closeness.*

- It's the same with Jesus. He didn't come just to get you to stop doing bad stuff. (Dad quote- Right or righteous) He wants to lead us into the free life that comes through a close, personal relationship with Him.

### **John 1:12 (Message)**

*But whoever did want him, who believed He was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves.*

- Notice the connection between wanting and knowing Him with being your true self.
- “Finding your center” “On the journey of self-discovery” This way of thinking leads to an identity crisis. **Find Him, Find You!**

***We don't earn closeness with Jesus, but we do choose it.***

### STORY 2

#### **Mark 5:24-34 (NLT)**

*<sup>24</sup> Jesus went with him, and all the people followed, crowding around him. <sup>25</sup> A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. <sup>26</sup> She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse.*

- This woman's issue had become her identity. It impacted every area of her life. Kept her from family and the future that she wanted. (She was considered unclean, and separated from society)
- Have you ever had an issue so big that it impacted every area of your life? It swallowed up your identity. You began to identify with your issue. (Divorce, Abuse, Addiction, Cultural Label, Rejection, Death)
- You thought time would heal but like this woman, you learned that time is NOT a healer but there is ONE who is a Healer!
- She knew this day; Jesus was coming close...

*<sup>27</sup> She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. <sup>28</sup> For she thought to herself, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.” <sup>29</sup> Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition. <sup>30</sup> Jesus realized at once that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my robe?” <sup>31</sup> His disciples said to him, “Look at this crowd pressing around you. How can you ask, ‘Who touched me?’” <sup>32</sup> But he kept on looking around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her, came, and fell to her knees in front of him and told him what she had done. <sup>34</sup> And he said to her, “Daughter...*

- “Daughter” this issue had kept her from ever having a family. Jesus was telling her that she belonged to His family, she was no longer an outsider.
- “You are not your issue, you are not a rejected outcast, and because you belong to me, you have access to my healing, power, and freedom. Most of all, you have access to me!”

- Jesus didn't want to move on without connecting with her. He wanted her to know He knew her and saw her. The healing wasn't the point, being close to her was the point.
- **Jesus wanted the relationship to outlast the moment!**

*<sup>34</sup> And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over."*

**When we embrace our identity, we step out of our history and into our destiny.**

- Your history might be rejection, but your destiny is acceptance.
- Your history might be brokenness, but your destiny is wholeness.
- Your history might be a mess, but your destiny is masterpiece.
- Your history might be bound, but your destiny is freedom!

### ***Galatians 4:6-7 (TPT)***

*6 And so that we would know that we are his true children, God released the Spirit of Sonship into our hearts—moving us to cry out intimately, "My Father! My true Father!" 7 Now we're no longer living like slaves under the law, but we enjoy being God's very own sons and daughters! And because we're his, we can access everything our Father has—for we are heirs because of what God has done!*

- Access: You don't have to earn it or strive for it. You access the freedom He has for you through a relationship.
- As sons and daughters, freedom is our inheritance. As heirs, you have authority over your identity, to protect and preserve it, where it can never be stolen from you again.

*Live It: LifeLock Your Identity Using the "I Am" declaration you have on your seats. Those watching online can access using the link. Use it every day this month. We believe it will help you draw close to Jesus and secure your identity in Him.*