NOTES: The Runaway

October 24-25, 2026| Pastor Dustin Reed | Compelled Church

Philemon: Written around 61 A.D. from a Roman Prison. Letter to Philemon and it's his shortest most personal epistle. Centers around two figures and the Apostle Paul

- Onesimus (The Runaway): Slave who fled Philemon's household, likely stealing money to finance his 1,000-mile plus, journey to Rome. There he meets Paul and comes to faith in Jesus
- Philemon: A leader in the Colossian church and Onesimus Master.

Philemon 1:17-19

17 So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. 18 If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. 19 I, PAUL, WRITE THIS WITH MY OWN HAND: I WILL REPAY IT. AND I WON'T MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SOUL!

Koinoia – partnership, fellowship, or joint participation

1. Paul tells Philemon to welcome Onesimus as He would welcome Him. Jesus tells the Father to welcome us as He would welcome the Son.
2. Paul takes on the debt of Onesimus. Jesus takes on our debt.

Culture says hold onto the offense. Jesus says Let go of the offense.

Colossians 3:13
13. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

How do we step out into the world, without letting offenses control us?

1. Budget for the offense

Practice: We make space for people to miss the mark in our lives.

2. Stop the story in your head

Practice: Stop the story in your head how you "deserved" an outcome or they "deserved" it. Yield those thoughts in Prayer.

3. Forgive with wisdom

Practice: Forgive not to give back access but to let go of the idea that we get to punish the offender.

If the son sets you free, you are free indeed – John 8:36