

Understanding True Freedom

5th Sunday of Pashans



Laying the Foundation

- **We Are All Captives**
 - “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever **commits sin** is a slave of sin.” (John 8:34)
 - “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus **death spread to all men**, because all sinned.” (Romans 5:12)
- **Christ came to liberate us**
 - “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, **To proclaim liberty to the captives** And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed.” (Luke 4:18)

Laying the Foundation

- **The Spirit of Truth**

- “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31–32)
- “The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him.” (John 14:17)

Misconceptions About Freedom

1. The Absence of Boundaries

- The pursuit of every desire does not produce freedom — it produces slavery and bondage.
- Negative vs Positive Liberty
 - Negative liberty = freedom **from** interference
 - Positive liberty = freedom **for** some goal
- “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13)

Misconceptions About Freedom

2. Freedom as Autonomy from God

- “You will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:5)
- “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

3. Freedom as License to Sin

- “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” (Romans 6:1–2)

The Correct Understanding of Freedom

1. Freedom is FOR, Not Just FROM

- EX: Prodigal Son
- "But when he came to himself..." (Luke 15:17)
- True freedom always answers two questions:
 - Free from what?
 - Free for what?

2. Conforming to Our True Nature

- The more we become what we were made to be — the image and likeness of God — the freer we become.
- EX: Moses
- "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

The Correct Understanding of Freedom

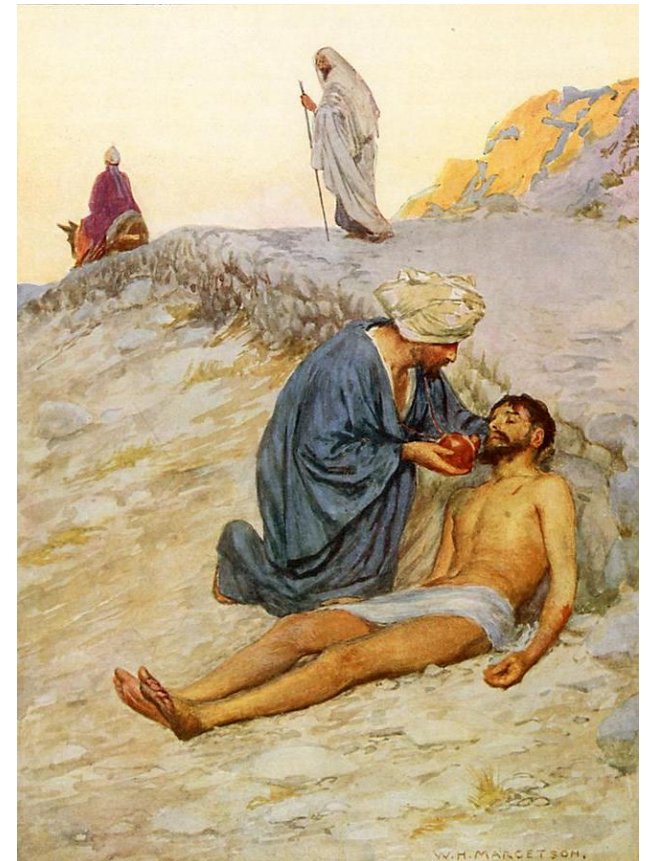
3. Freedom as Liberation from the Passions

- EX: Demon Possessed Man in the Gadarenes
- “And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, 3 who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, 4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. 5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.” (Mark 5:2-5 2)



The Law of Love Over the Law of Liberty

- EX: Eating meat sacrificed to idols
- “But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.” (1 Corinthians 8:9)
- “Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.” (1 Corinthians 8:13)
- “For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more.” (1 Corinthians 9:19)
- EX: The Good Samaritan



Recap

- Liberation had a purpose:
 - Covenant
 - A order life
 - An inheritance
- We Are All Captives
- Christ came to liberate us
- Misconceptions About Freedom
 1. The Absence of Boundaries
 2. Freedom as Autonomy from God
 3. Freedom as License to Sin
- The Correct Understanding of Freedom
 1. Freedom is FOR, Not Just FROM
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 4. The Law of Love Over the Law of Liberty