

City Life Church 4.13.19 - Breaking the Yoke – Sharon Thomas

Introduction:

People talk a lot about what is important to them

Our Heavenly Father talks a lot about what is important to Him... our freedom

- Freedom is a repetitive theme throughout all of scripture
- Freedom motivates so many of God's actions
- And even more than all of that, Freedom is a mark of God's character!
- In fact, He was willing to die for us to live in freedom

Review two things from series

- Pastor Fred has made it very clear... God's Word proclaims that it is the ministry of Christ that establishes our freedom ...
- But Pastor Fred has also brought us into a place of looking at a scripture in Isaiah 10:27 that really ministers the idea that it is our growth in response to the ministry of Christ that causes us to get too big (too fat) for the yokes of sin... so we grow, we break free of them... and move on to the goodness of God in our lives!

Over and over again God speaks into that Truth that we as believers in Christ are to take hold of the salvation of Jesus and THEN... in the power of that salvation take the responsibility to do our part to grow and break free of the chains of sin! To grow so FAT in the practices of our faith... that we are too big to contain the yokes that Satan would try to lock us into...

So tonight He is going to continue to speak... expounding on this same theme... just like a loving parent would... but tonight He is going to really talk to us about HOW to get fat... how to grow big... and break those yokes! We are going to find His message in Isaiah 61.

I believe it necessary and beneficial to first share about the Gospel foundations of our freedom ...

See if we don't understand the COMPLETENESS of the Gospel... it is really hard to grow into breaking those yokes...

Gospel Foundations

See attached pdf chart

It is so so important to have that foundational understanding... bc

- it takes away the confusion
- It diffuses the power of the enemy to put you under condemnation in the process of breaking free...

How many of us know that one of the enemy's favorite things to do is paralyze us in shame and condemnation...

But when we understand that

- our spirit, and our body is already set free in Christ... Christ alone!
- but for our soul... it is a process that we are invited into...
- When we really get this... then we start walking in that process with our heads held high in the mercy of grace of Jesus...
- Resting in our salvation... and working it out all at the same time!

Isaiah 61

READ verses 1-3

EXPOUND about Jesus' mission (Luke 4 Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing)

Read verse 4

We are the people that Jesus came and ministered too... we are the **THEY**

- Rebuild the ancient ruins
- They will raise up the former devastations
- They will repair the ruined cities

We have to transfer the Metaphor to me

We all have to take these words off the page and actually do these things

Verse 4 has to become a living active Word in our lives!

Zoom to “***the desolations of many generations***” **slide**

So

- Verses 1-3 – all about Jesus ministry
- Verse 4 – all about our response – Rebuild, Raise up, Repair
- Verse 5 - 7 – the grace outflow that happens in the process

Verse 5 - God will grace you with help... this basically is saying... you will not have to strive... I will provide using people and situations that you can't even imagine... they will come out of nowhere!

Verse 6 - God will give the grace of a new identity and provision

Verse 7 - God will give you the grace of joy!

As one yoke after another comes off... joy will grow... and eventually rise up so much in you that it causes you to shout!

Conclusion

3 questions

First question:

Have you rebuilt the ancient ruins? – Have you gone back to my Word and built My ways into that part of your life... for instance

Second question

Have you raised up the former devastations?

In other words have you taken those broken places in your life and raised them up to the power of God... Is your view of these things framed by heavens message or this world's?

Third Question

Have you done the repair work on the cities in your life? Actually obeyed God and did what He said...

Consistently, practicing His plan... doing what it takes to make things right according to His ways... seeing the repair work all the way to completion...

If your answer is no... to any of these questions... I want to encourage you to change that answer to a Yes! You can make a decision to REBUILD, RAISE UP and REPAIR

And if your answer was yes to all three of those questions...

Then 2 things

- First - You have a testimony – tell it!!!!

- Second - Your answer is yes... but you still are not experiencing the freedom you long for... keep doing what you are doing... Keep showing up... to rebuild, raise up, repair... Participate in the process... trust God's Word

And at some point that yoke is going to start to crack, it is going to start to pull apart and one day it will break off... and what a glorious day that will be!

You will have freedom for that city!

And you will be like Jesus said... a city on a hill for His glory!

Everlasting Joy will be yours!

The glory of God's church is that we are on this freedom journey together...

- supporting one another...
- encouraging one another
- Helping one another to REBUILD, RAISE UP, REPAIR

So church, let's respond to the Lord's freedom cry in our lives!

SOUL PILATES MARCH WEEK 1
 COLOSSIANS 3:1-17



Now may the God of peace Himself, save you entirely;
 may your spirit, soul, and body
 be preserved complete without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 I Thessalonians 5:23

<p>We are MADE IN HIS IMAGE Genesis 1:27</p> <p>Just as God is One but has three parts, Father, Son and Spirit, so do we...</p>	<p>DEATH affects us completely Romans 6:23</p> <p>Because of sin, every part of us experiences death...</p>	<p>Salvation affects us completely I Thessalonians 5:23</p> <p>Through Jesus' death and resurrection, every part of us can experience salvation ...</p>
<p>Spirit The place where God dwells</p>	<p>Death of our spirit God told Adam and Eve, "...in the day you eat of it, you shall surely die" Genesis 2:17</p> <p>That day in the Garden of Eden when they chose sin, their spirit died. God would no longer dwell within their spirit. This was an <u>immediate death</u>.</p>	<p>Salvation of our spirit (Justification) Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we are justified to experience a rebirth of our spirit. John 3:1-17, Romans 5:15-17</p> <p>Justification is a legal term that declares someone is "just as if they had never sinned"... the blood of Jesus pays our debt of sin and allows the privilege of our spirit being born again and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Justification takes place <u>immediately</u> when we receive Jesus as our Savior.</p>
<p>Soul Our mind, will and emotions</p>	<p>Death of our soul Without the Spirit of God ruling our lives, we are left with only our soul to guide our ways. The Bible says, "<i>There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.</i>" Proverbs 14:12</p> <p>As our soul rules and leads us in sin, God's good plan for our mind, will and emotions is destroyed. This death of our souls <u>takes place over time</u>.</p>	<p>Salvation of our soul (Sanctification) Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, as the Holy Spirit lives in us and we yield to His leading of our soul, our mind, will and emotions are renewed in righteousness. John 17:17, Colossians 3:5-10</p> <p>Sanctification is a cleansing process that takes time. As we daily humble our souls to the leading of the Holy Spirit, He cleanses our thoughts, our wills and our emotions to live in honor of Jesus. This Sanctification process takes place <u>over time</u>.</p>
<p>Body Our physical body/earth suit in this life...</p>	<p>Death of our body Because of sin, our physical bodies are susceptible to death. The Bible says of our physical bodies, "<i>it has been appointed to man to die once...</i>" Hebrews 9:27</p> <p>Sin left our bodies vulnerable to sickness and death and eventually all men will die a physical death. This death will take place <u>in the future</u>.</p>	<p>Salvation of our body (Glorification) Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are given the privilege of eternal life in heaven. Our bodies will be glorified and made new. I Corinthians 15:51-57</p> <p>Glorification is a supernatural work of God and one that we can look forward to experiencing for all of eternity. Glorification will take place <u>in the future</u>.</p>

Heart: the connection point of your spirit, soul and body