

Juneteenth Freedom -6-19-24

Juneteenth – day, **1865** - Union Army General **Granger** arrived in Galveston, Texas w/2,000 soldiers; issued **General Order #3** – informed that all slaves are free.

- You are no longer “masters & slaves.” Connection is gone.
 - You will now be employer and hired labor; work for wages.
- **2½ years** after Abraham Lincoln’s **Emancipation Proclamation – Jan. 1, 1863** – declared: “**all persons held as slaves ... shall be forever free**”
 - **They had been declared free, but weren’t living free.**
- Confederate stronghold moved 50,000 slaves to Texas. Union army advanced, forced surrender of Confederate army in Galveston, Texas.
- 250,000 enslaved people were finally freed.
- 13th AMDT ratified Feb. 1865; June 17, 2021 – Pres. Biden made fed holiday.

Luke 4 – After Jesus’ was baptized, He was led to the wilderness and was tempted by Satan, then Jesus returned to Galilee. Went thru Capernaum teaching & healing before returning to His hometown of Nazareth. Went to synagogue.

⁷ The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,

¹⁹ and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.”

²⁰ He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. ²¹ Then he began to speak to them. “The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!”

Jesus proclaimed who He was – the One anointed by God. To tell us Good News: Jesus set us free. **We are free**, but like the slaves, we don’t always live free.

1. We’re forgiven, but live Oppressed. . . **weight/Guilt. Be Free from Guilt.**

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” – **1 John 1:9**

“For I will forgive their iniquities & will remember their sins no more.” **Heb. 8:12**
Forgiven & cleansed. Past is wiped away. Doesn’t exist. No more guilt.

“Therefore there is now no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus.” – **Rom. 8:1**
No declaring you wrong. Not culpable. Not doomed to punishment.

2. We're **new people**; not who we used to be. **Live Burdened by our Past.**

God sees who we can be! **Matthew** the evangelist/tax-collector. **Peter.**
Col. 3:3 – “For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

- Slaves had to learn to live free – see themselves as employer/hired labor. Me must See the value. Know we're different. See ourselves changed!

Romans 8:2 – “The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Christ Jesus and will set you free from sin and death.” Sin no longer controls.

** We're set free from the power of sin. Have power to live changed, new life.

3. Live **Free from Worry & Fear.**

Worry – thinking something bad is going to happen – may or may not. Anxiety.

Fear – concern that danger is ahead; perceived threat. Often, it's the unknown.

You don't have to know the future if you know God. He is good. Victorious.

No matter what the future brings, we know how this story ends: Jesus wins.

You can have no cares when you live in the care of God.

Matthew 6:33-34 - MESSAGE: “What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with *getting*, so you can respond to God's *giving*. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. ³⁴ “Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.”

4. **Freedom from a Wasted Life.**

- You can live perfect, no sin, ... Great son/mom/ boss.... yet live a wasted life.
- If we pursue jobs, relationships, passions, but don't pursue God, it's wasted.

John 10:10 – “I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.” Thief/steal

- **Abundant** – not lacking in anything. Full of love, joy, peace, kindness.
- Abundant life is full of those things money can't buy.
 - The closer we draw to God (giver of all good things), the more abundant our life will become. Perspective change. Satisfaction.
- Closeness to God leads to worship. Worship is our purpose. When we worship, when we praise Him - our **lights shine**. We're the city on a hill.
 - **Identify the thieves in your life.** What keeps you from pursuing God? We waste our life by focusing on things that don't matter.

Song of the week – “I'm Free” – Booth Brothers Movies.