

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 1 March 2015

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Freed from Captivity

Introduction: This talk develops the series on 'the cross' by reflecting on the connected themes of 'redemption' and 'ransom'. Jesus came 'to give his life as a ransom for many' (Mark 10:45). The imagery of redemption conjures up a payment that sets someone or something free from its current owners and transfers the ownership to another. The ransom is the price that is paid for the release. This idea forces to ask three questions: why do we need freeing?; what was the price paid for our release? And, What are we freed *for*? The talk addresses these three questions.

Review: (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

Reflect:

Read: Titus 3:3-5

Reflect:

In what way have people in the group felt 'enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures'? How have they experienced the cross as a place of liberation?

How does the idea of being 'trapped' or 'held captive' resonate with people in our culture? How might this imagery be a 'way into' explaining the Gospel?

Read: Ephesians 1:7

Reflect:

Our 'redemption' comes at a price: 'the blood' of Jesus. How does the price that was paid for our freedom affect the faith of people in the group?

Consider this quotation by Oswald Chambers: "*Beware of the pleasant view of the fatherhood of God: God is so kind and loving that of course He will forgive us. That thought, based solely on emotion, cannot be found anywhere in the New Testament. The only basis on which God can forgive us is the tremendous tragedy of the Cross of Christ*". Why is the 'pleasant view' attractive? Have people come across it before? In what ways does it fail to do justice to our view of God, our view of ourselves and our view of the cross of Jesus?

Read: Revelation 5:9 / Romans 6:20-23

Reflect:

What does it mean to people in the group that you have been purchased '*for God*'?

The language of 'slavery' is clearly difficult today, so how do people react to Romans 6:22?

Respond:

Love for God

In what specific ways does the imagery of 'redemption' and 'ransom' enhance our love for God.

Love for one another

How might knowing that such a high price was paid for all of our brother and sister Christians, affect our attitudes and behavior towards them? Specifically, how might it help when we come into conflict with them?

Love for neighbour & world

How might we see and treat people differently at work, or in the other places we spend this coming week, if we see them as 'worth' the great price Jesus paid for them?

And finally:

Before you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?