

John 8:34-36 October 27, 2018

Let me read the Gospel from a different bible...The Message.

“Jesus said, I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave. A slave is a transient, who can’t come and go at will. The Son, though, has established position in the run of the house. So, if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through. I know you are Abraham’s descendants. But I also know that you are trying to kill me because my message hasn’t yet penetrated your thick skulls. I’m talking about things that I have seen while keeping company with the Father, and you just go on doing what you have heard from your father.” Small f.

The following story is taken from a book entitled “Stories for Telling” This story is reputedly true..though true or a parable, it speaks to the importance of the One of one who can save.

It was almost 1 AM when the phone rang. Dr. Leo Winters, a highly acclaimed surgeon, was abruptly awakened from his night’s sleep. There had been an accident and his skilled hands were needed for immediate surgery. The quickest route to the hospital happened to be through a rather tough area of the city, but with time being a critical factor it was worth the risk.

At one of the stoplights his door was yanked open by a man with a gray hat and a dirty flannel shirt. “I’ve got to have you car!” the man screamed, pulling the doctor from his seat. Winters tried to explain the gravity of the situation but the man would not listen. When the doctor was finally able to get a taxi to the hospital over an hour had elapsed

and it was too late as the patient had passed away 30 minutes earlier. The nurse told him that the father of the victim had gone to the chapel wondering why the doctor never came. Dr. Winters walked hurriedly to the chapel to explain what had happened to him. When he entered he saw the father kneeling in the front row, he was wearing a gray hat and a dirty flannel shirt.

Tragically he had pushed from his life the one. The One who could have saved his son. (pause)

My friends, scores of people push from their lives the very One who can save them. Save them from the penalty and the power of their sin. Countless numbers are too busy for the One. The One who can deliver them. The One who can save them. They cannot seem to find time for the One who can redeem their lives. It is so tragic for life could be so different for so many if they would only find time for the One. If they would only make time for the One. If they would only make time for Jesus. In announcing the Savior's birth, the angel of the Lord declared to Joseph: She, meaning Mary, will bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sin."

There is another word to address this freedom or salvation-it is redeemed.

Redeemed how? Through the blood of the Lamb, through the blood of Christ. Now the word redemption was a commercial term borrowed from the market place. This term was used from the market where human beings were offered for sale to the highest bidder. Condemned to this state these slaves were powerless to escape. Their only hope was redemption, an uncommon process whereby they were purchased in order to be set free. Scripture uses this tragedy of slavery to illustrate

our human predicament. Without God's intervention we are all hopelessly enslaved to ourselves and enslaved to sin. Without God's intervention we are condemned to live in bondage. Enslaved by sin and unable to liberate ourselves. Jesus said "Truly I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin" Sin entraps us. Sin holds us rendering us powerless to escape from its clutches. Consequently, try as we might we in our own strength are unable to overcome sin. In our natural unsaved state we are at the mercy of sin; powerless against it. Our only hope is in Christ Jesus, who can redeem us, setting us free from sin's penalty and power. We have redemption through Jesus' blood. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. Through faith in Christ we are delivered from the consequences of sin. But that is only part of what it means to be redeemed for both our present and our futures are affected. When redeemed we are no longer held captive. We are delivered from our old lifestyle and introduced to a new and better way.

Jesus said, "If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed" AMEN