



THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Expressing Christ Among Captives: Setting Them Free Through God’s Grace (Part 5)

Session Number: 31 | Week: 5 | Day: 3

Bible Passage

Matthew 21:1-22

Introduction

In Matthew 21:1-22 we explore the stumbling blocks that hinder making Christ known, particularly to those imprisoned—Part 6. Jesus teaches His disciples about the grace and truth of giving freedom to those who are bound or imprisoned, illustrated by the example of loosening a bound donkey. The devil uses three major gates of hell to imprison God's people: 1) the spirit of empty religion, 2) the spirit of racism and hostile culture, and 3) the spirit of the dark world of witchcraft. Jesus called His disciples to be with Him and then sent them to free those bound by the strong man, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Freely you have received; freely give freedom.

Session Objectives

By the end of this session, you will have:

- Appreciated the grace of receiving freedom from Christ and giving freedom to those who are bound by examining the parable of untying the donkey used by Christ.
- Discussed the knowledge needed by agents of change before starting the mission of Christ.
- Understood the doctrine of loosening the bound and setting them free to worship God by profiling the oppressed, identifying the enemy who binds God’s people, and recognising the resources (Holy Spirit and prayer for victory) and the agents of change.

Session Outline

- **The grace of receiving freedom and the grace of giving freedom** to the captives.
- **Dealing with the three gates of hell** in the last days.
- **What information is needed** before giving freedom to the captives?
- **Excuses that Moses gave** when sent by God to deliver His children.
- **Profiling the oppressed and their stakeholders** before the deliverance session begins.

Connecting

- Study together in a group of two or more people.
- Begin with a prayer, asking God to bless your understanding.
- Read the passage at least twice using different Bible versions, then retell the story among your group members.
- Share the challenges and blessings from the previous day.

Comprehending

What do the verses mean?
(In small groups, attempt the following questions):

- What did you discover about God, His people, and the enemy in this passage? What lessons have you learned from the passage?
- What is a prison? What types of prisons do you know? What must you understand to be part of the rescue mission team?
- Read Matthew 21:1-7. List at least five truths the disciples needed to know before obeying the command to untie the donkey. (Compare with Moses’s commissioning at the burning bush in Exodus 3:1-15)
- Read Matthew 21:8-16. The tied donkey could represent the tied people. List three categories of people who are imprisoned by the spirit of religion.
- What are the proofs or indicators that the people were freed before Jesus? What did the people start doing? (See Matthew 21:8-9; Matthew 21:14; Matthew 21:15-16)
- List three ways the Pharisees and teachers of the law had denied the people access to the House of Prayer for all nations. What two dangers does Hosea 4:6 highlight for God’s people who fail to know God as the only source?
- Read Matthew 21:17-22. List three truths you learned from the withering of the fig tree. (The fig tree represented Israel and its leadership, which was rejected—not as God’s people, but as His representatives to the nations at this time.)
- List four lessons learned about being God’s representative to the nations (i.e., receiving the grace of representing Christ to the nations of the world).

Committing

- Engage with the Bible—read, study, memorize, meditate, pray, listen, and live it out.
- List three lessons you learnt as an agent of change that you would practice and teach others about
- Take time and worship Jesus with the attributes revealed about Christ now.
- Engage SPACEPETS model, to do something after the session. Look for:
 - **Sin** to confess
 - **Promise** to claim
 - **Attitude** to change
 - **Command** to keep
 - **Error** to change
 - **Prayer** to make
 - **Example** to copy
 - **Truth** to obey and
 - **Something** praiseworthy

Communicating

- Identify one person and share the lessons you learnt in this session?
- Visit or call a new believer and Pray with them over the issues they are struggling with. Issue of attending the church.
- Form another group and repeat this study.