SETTING THE CAPTIVES FREE

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“Are past failures automatic disqualifiers from future value and purpose?”

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“Do I really matter to God and do I really matter others?”

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“Captivity creates separation”.

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“We all want to know and be known and to love and be loved”.

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Luke 19:1-10

*1 He entered Jericho and was passing through.*

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*2 And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich.*

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*3 And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature.*

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*4 So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way.*

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*5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today."*

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*6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.*

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*7 And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."*

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*8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."*

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*9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.*

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*10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (ESV)*

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Luke 7:36-47

*36 One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table.*

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*37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment,*

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*38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.*

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*39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."*

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*40 And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."*

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*41 "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.*

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*42 When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?"*

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*43 Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."*

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*44 Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.*

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*45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet.*

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*46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.*

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*47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven-for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." (ESV)*

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“How can we become an attractive church for people who have given up on church?”

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Mark 2:17

*Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners. (ESV)*

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Isaiah 61:1-4

*1 THE SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor, and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound prison*

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*2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord [the year of His favor] and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,*

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*3 To grant [consolation and joy] to those who mourn in Zion—to give them an ornament of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, the garment [expressive] of praise instead of a heavy, burdened, and failing spirit—that they may be called oaks of righteousness [lofty, strong, and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice, and right standing with God], the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.*

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*4 And they shall rebuild the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former desolations and renew the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.” (AMPC)*

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Judges 11:1-11

*1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior, but he was the son of a prostitute. Gilead was the father of Jephthah.*

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*2 And Gilead's wife also bore him sons. And when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, "You shall not have an inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman."*

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*3 Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob and worthless fellows collected around Jephthah and went out with him.*

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*4 After a time the Ammonites made war against Israel.*

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*5 And when the Ammonites made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah from the land of Tob.*

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*6 And they said to Jephthah, "Come and be our leader, that we may fight against the Ammonites."*

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*7 But Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you not hate me and drive me out of my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?"*

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*8 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "That is why we have turned to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the Ammonites and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."*

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*9 Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you bring me home again to fight against the Ammonites, and the LORD gives them over to me, I will be your head."*

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*10 And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The LORD will be witness between us, if we do not do as you say."*

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*11 So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and leader over them. And Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD at Mizpah. (ESV)*

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I Samuel 22:1-2

*David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father’s household heard about it, they went down to him there. All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him. (NIV)*

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“Common needs, create common ground.”

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"Jesus didn’t launch the Church for people who had a common interest; He launched the Church for people who had a common need."

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Romans 8:1-4

*1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

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*2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*

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*3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,*

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*4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” (ESV)*

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Romans 3:10-11

*10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;*

*--*

*11 no one understands; no one seeks [to intelligently discern or comprehend] for God." (ESV)*

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"Is God asking us to adapt Him to our culture or to adapt our culture to Him?"