

Jesus Paid Our Debts | Luke 4:14-20 Sermon Discussion Participant's Guide

Purpose of Discussion: to share about ways that Jesus has set us free and practical ways that we can be involved in helping others be set free.

Sermon Refresher: Because Jesus lived and died to set us free from sin and death, we who follow Jesus are motivated to live, love, give, and serve so that others can be set free.

Icebreaker: Pick one of these questions to get to know each other better:

- What were a few highlights of your summer?
- When was a time that you did something that some would think of as a little crazy? Why did you do it?

Discussion:

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 out loud. In what ways was the Macedonian churches' generosity a little crazy?

2 Corinthians 8:1-4

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

2. Read Leviticus 25:35-43 out loud. How is God calling his people to treat the poor and those unable to support themselves? Be specific.

Leviticus 25:35-43

³⁵ "If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and are unable to support themselves among you, help them as you would a foreigner and stranger, so they can continue to live among you. ³⁶ Do not take interest or any profit from them, but fear your God, so that they may continue to live among you. ³⁷ You must not lend them money at interest or sell them food at a profit. ³⁸ I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.

³⁹ "If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and sell themselves to you, do not make them work as slaves. ⁴⁰ They are to be treated as hired workers or temporary residents among you; they are to work for you until the Year of Jubilee. ⁴¹ Then they and their children are to be released, and they will go back to their own clans and to the property of their ancestors. ⁴² Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves. ⁴³ Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God.

3. Look at v.38 and v.42. What makes God's people care for those who are poor or unable to support themselves?

4. Look at v.41. What happened in the Year of Jubilee? How did the Jubilee give the poor hope for a better future?

5. Read Luke 4:16-21. How is Jesus the fulfillment of the Jubilee?

Luke 4:16-21

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

6. In light of what Jesus has done for us, why do we have reason to be more generous than Old Testament believers?

7. In what ways have you personally experienced freedom in your life because of Jesus?

8. In what ways do you have a heart for or are involved in helping others be set free?

Sharing and Prayer:

Catch up personally on ways to pray for each other. Also, pray for each of the following things:

- Thank God for how he has set us free from our spiritual debt.
- Pray for the God's people to be generous to give the \$200,000 to pay off all the medical debt of the most needy in mid-Missouri.
- Pray for the people whose debt is forgiven to be encouraged and to see Christ as their greatest hope for the forgiveness of their spiritual debt.
- Pray that God would provide the volunteers needed for Crossing Kids, space in the 9:45am worship service for new people, and hearts to give generously to the ministries of the church.