

Freedom BOUND

Advent - Epiphany 2015

Advent Three: The Path of Trust

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- Why the theme "Freedom Bound" for this series?
- We live in the paradox where we are both bound and free, on a march to freedom but encumbered by the burden of sin we carry; we are carrying the scars of struggle but living with a new hope.
- Therefore, we will be reflecting on how God's coming (advent) in Jesus, whom we call the Christ, releases us from personal, social, and historical chains that bind us.
- God's freedom takes us down pathways of: **justice, mercy, trust, love, service, and inclusion.**

Psalm 25:1,4 NIV

¹ In you, LORD my God,
I put my trust.

⁴ Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

Isaiah 12:2 NIV

“Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and not be afraid.

The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.”



My Deliverer
by Rich Mullins
The Jesus Record (1998)

Luke 8:22-24 NIV

²² One day Jesus said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side of the lake.” So they got into a boat and set out. ²³ As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

²⁴ The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we’re going to drown!”

Luke 8:24b-25 NIV

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.

²⁵ “Where is your faith?” he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.”

The Opposite of Faith (Trust) is Fear

The chains of fear that bind up our faith:

Fear of the unknown, fear of failure, fear of our safety and security, fear of enemies, fear of people unlike us, etc.

“Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering.” – Yoda

- The oft-repeated command “Do not be afraid!” is for good reason; fear does not allow us to walk the path of trust
- When we live in fear we are following Satan, not Jesus
- God does not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline (2 Tim 1:7).

Paul, Philippians 4:4-7 NIV

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:8-9 NIV

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Jesus, John 14:27 NIV

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.”

Psalms 20:7

Or in other words...

“The world trusts in borders, bombs, tanks, jets and drones, but the Church trusts in the coming Christ—God’s crucified Son and his Kingdom come—our risen refugee.”

Walking the Road to Freedom

- Following Jesus into freedom means letting him work to increase your ability to trust him more, not less
- The path of trust is about building the faith of Christ; spiritual growth is contingent upon overcoming fear
- We're not trusting God for certain outcomes, but trusting God's character and promises revealed in Jesus; God is responsible for outcomes, we're trusting Him
- When we're walking the path of trust, we get His peace
- What fears are hindering my walk, robbing me of joy and peace? What is the Spirit calling me to do to exercise a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline?

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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org