




Last week Jesus proclaimed that He was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 61:1-2. He is good news!

Those in material poverty can know their access to God is not dependent upon their paycheck, status, cash offering, etc. Their cause is not disregarded by God.



Those who recognize their spiritual poverty (understanding that they are spiritually destitute – Isa. 1:18; 64:6; Rom. 3:9-20) will find that when they turn in brokenness to Jesus, they will find their debt has been paid in full with the blood of Christ.



ADVENT 2023:
FREEDOM FOR THE CAPTIVE

Luke 4:16-18a

IMPRISONMENT IN THE US AND ABROAD

In 2023, nearly two million people in the US are incarcerated in federal and state prisons and in local jails at any given time.

Worldwide that number is over 10 million.

Did Jesus come to break them out?

PRISON BREAK!

- The apostles, Acts 5:17ff (vss. 17-20)
- Peter imprisoned, Acts 12:1-19 (vss. 6-7)
- Paul and Silas imprisoned, Acts 16:16ff (vss. 22-26)

Okay, so there were a few, but not enough to demonstrate His purpose for coming



What captives then?

Originally, (Isaiah 61:1) the prophetic word referenced the Israelites still 'homeless' following the Babylonian captivity.

In the NT, Jesus, the Apostles Paul and Peter all note the need of freedom from spiritual captivity. And all who seek find that freedom in Christ!

Prov. 5:22 “The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him...”

John 8:34 “...everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”

Acts 8:23 “...you are still full of bitterness and captive to sin.”

Rom. 6:16; 7:23; 2 Tim. 2:26; 2 Pet. 2:19

HOW CHRIST EFFECTS FREEDOM

John 8:32 (Rom. 6:18)

Romans 8:2, 21

2 Cor. 3:17 (Gal. 2:4)

Do you want to be healed?