

#### IV. The Living Liberator (5:31, 42)

- A. Jesus is Our Prince and Liberator (5:30-31)
- i. The terms Prince and Savior used together call to mind Judges (Judges 3:9, 15; 5:15; 11:6)
  - ii. Only one can give true liberation: Jesus Christ.
- B. The Gospel proclaims Jesus as Liberator King. (5:42)

#### LIVE THE STORY

*We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.*

- Do you see some indications that 5:12-42 records the answer to the prayer of the church in 4:29-30?
- Can you identify areas in our culture today in which the truths of God's liberating power would be applicable? Describe.
- How has Christ's liberating power changed you? Are there areas your community group can pray for you and come along side you to minister Christ's liberating power and care to you?
- Do people pursue freedom today with the same tenacity we see in 5:15-16—even if they seek it in the wrong places? Explain.
- Why does the message that Jesus is the Messiah—the Liberating King always have to be central to all ministry we do?
- Are you pursuing liberation today? Have you come to know the Liberator?
- If you've been freed by Christ, are you proclaiming liberation? ... are you living in the liberation from idols and in the radically new way of following Jesus?
- For what purpose does Christ set us free from captivity? How can you grow in fulfilling that purpose in your own life?

#### A New Story of Liberation

Jerry Cisar — July 20, 2014

Text: Acts 5:12-42

#### Introduction: A Familiar Story

- A. An answer to the prayer in 4:29-30.
- i. *Continually increasing numbers* (5:14; 6:1)
  - ii. The **unstoppable increase** and Exodus
    - a) Exodus 1:10, 12
    - b) Psalm 105:24-27
- B. These stories are about liberation.

#### I. Pursuing Liberation (5:15-16)

- A. Liberation from captivity
- i. God stretches out His hand to heal.
    - a) Exodus 6:8; 7:5
    - b) Two sides of salvation
  - ii. God stretches out His hand to set people free.
    - Luke 13:16

B. A desperate pursuit of deliverance.

C. Extraordinary Miracles

i. Acts 19:11

Max Turner, The Holy Spirit and His Gifts, *“this phrase, the plural ‘gifts (of healings)’ probably emphasizes that each event is the work of God, rather than that the ability to heal on any and every occasion is granted...”*

ii. Isaiah 41:17-18

## II. Proclaiming Liberty (5:17-40)

A. This story is a picture of liberation and reveals the purpose for which we are liberated.

i. 5:18-20 is a succinct summary:

- a) **Captivity:** *They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.*
- b) **Liberation:** *But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.*
- c) **God's Purpose:** *“Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.”*

ii. Isaiah 41:8-9 This speaks to the fact of election.

iii. Isaiah 42:1,6-8 This speaks to the purpose of election.

B. The Apostles Obey God and Disobey the Authorities

i. The apostles are doing exactly what the midwives in Egypt did when Pharaoh tried to hinder the increase of Israelites by killing their sons. (Exodus 1:15-17)

ii. This is not the same as civil-disobedience for the sake of personal profit.

iii. 5:28 is the fulfillment of Psalm 102:21.

C. Christ liberates us; then sends us to liberate others through the message of this life.

## III. Liberated Living (5:20, 31, 40-41)

A. 5:20 *“...stand up to tell the people the whole message about this way of life from Jesus.”* (The Voice)

B. 5:31 *“...that he might give Israel repentance...”*

i. *“a radical rethinking of our lives”*

ii. The liberating gospel calls us to a new way of life in Jesus and our response involves *“a radical rethinking of our lives”*.

C. 5:40-41 A liberation that cannot be removed with whips.