2022 01 30 UNCOMFORTABLE FREEDOM

Jeremiah 1:4-10. Psalm 71:1-6. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. Luke 4:21-30.

There can be a strange slightly uneasy feeling about being given freedom to choose – on anything really – with choice comes responsibility and the feeling of the way others will react to your right or failed choices. Or of consequences? If I give myself totally to God will I be told/invited by God to join His work ? where, how, mixing with ? Well, I guess if God is there, there is at least One in it with me.

God will with the job give the strength – I will give you the words to speak when you need them. – with the task or life comes the gifting.

But going back a few steps – make it personal – what inhibitions do we have that are different to our valid moral structure. Freedom to what? from what? from an outside constraint or freedom from inner ‘stuff’? being ourselves but afraid of rejection or criticism, loving or caring for fear of rejection?

Freedom from the destruction of war, either as a civilian victim or a damaged soldier – how many have committed suicide? Or not able to live in inner freedom.

When someone commits to walking in the freedom of God’s love and forgiveness in Jesus – this is freedom but what will school friends, family, and so on say – can we still be friends – will the friendship of Gods Holy Spirit – the Comforter – enable me to honestly know my feelings and thoughts and know that Gods love is enough and God’s world will open up for me.

Can we break away, away from the jail of childhood abuse of whatever type? Can we escape, the bondage of ‘normal’ –

better still just to be free in being in a normal ok life.

Speak our mind, go anywhere, do anything – could be good? There are consequences if we us our freedom to indulge ourselves.

In visiting inmates at Cooma jail, I have known men who have either done something to delay their release or after release have committed a crime and ‘hello’ – we meet again. They could not live in freedom – it was a horror to them -there is a comradeship, a belonging in gaol – albeit changing from day to day.

We all known people who have come clear of drugs or alcohol or whatever but because it changes their belonging in a specific group – they have been caught up again.

I also know others who have committed and worked hard in jail to be ready to live a less self-centred life outside and gain freedom to be with their families.

Coming back to personal freedom, real freedom shows when we can give up what we want and know is ok because we realise it causes offence or weaken another’s resolve to not be involved in that thing because even though for me it does not harm, but for them it is a pathway to excess and sin. There is plenty about this in 1 Corinthians 8:13.

The other side of this is our own individual areas where temptation finds us - for myself I have tried to find the pure that dissolves the obsession – like an alcoholic saying two drinks a day or a gambling addict or whatever saying \_ well just a little – the thing is ok in itself – but it will always bight you/me and we will fail. If something is a temptation to us – yes even though Jesus our Lord broke its power – we still live in these bodies and minds and emotions and the shadow of our temptation is still here. read Romans7

What did Paul say – “Who will rescue me from this body of death – thank God – Jesus my Saviour has.” Romans 8.

Another example of freedom which can be uncomfortable for us is if our forgiveness of others is not full grown – “pray for those who use you badly – do good to them-“ and “if someone asks you for your coat – give them your shirt as well.” Can I do this – would it be a gracious freedom or a grudging one?

Take freedom to the ultimate – “Jesus gave His life freely for you and me”. God loved His creation so totally – that He sent His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life.” John 3:16

In the garden the night of his arrest he agonised in God “that if there was any possibility that the cup of our sins could be taken away – but not my will Father but Yours.” And Jesus drained the cup of our sins till it was dry. He could have called 40 legions of angels to rescue him but he did not – he asked God the Father ‘not to hold the crucifiers guilty because they did not understand what they did.’

With our emotions, when we come to trust and freedom in Jesus these are freed to blossom and grow yet it can be scarry – what do I have/want to give up “what am I going to become” or when the ordinary gradually takes over – can we still be safe in the freedom.

“Don’t do what your brother feels is wrong.” This is freedom that is a greater freedom than simply doing what we choose.

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Jeremiah was getting on with life when God spoke to him and told him that before he was conceived, before he was born God had set task, a life for him – how did Jeremiah respond – v6 “Ah, Lord God1 behold, I cannot speak for I am but a child.” The life that God had built him for was so alien to himself that he could only see his own fears and limitations.

? How do we feel about knowing that God chose our biological parents because He wanted whatever bit of their DNA to create the person that he made each of us. Gods plan for us is that we walk with Hm in whatever life we have. Just you – created special and unique and God with us personally in every moment of our childhood and life.

V5 before you were conceived I knew you – I formed you in your mother’s stomach – I sanctified you a prophet to the world before you were born. *40 days of purpose.*

To Jeremiah’s fear He said : “do not speak like that because you will go where I send you and I will give you the words and you must speak them.´ God gives us both the will and the strength to do His good will”[[1]](#footnote-1).

*V8* do not be afraid of their faces for I will be with you to deliver you says the Lord.

*V9 “*and the Lord put forth His hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, I have put MY words in your mouth.” The same is said to us – the Holy Spirit will give us the words to speak when we need them. We are also given the gifts of the Spirit to enable us to fulfill our space in the family – and with Holy Spirit – Gods Presence in us we come to the fullness of the person that God created us to be.

*What is our freedom to be and do what God has made us to be:*

Gods eternal love for us individually, our freedom in Jesus to approach Gods Presence. “We are seated with Christ at the right hand of God”[[2]](#footnote-2) - and **that** is now – freedom to live in God knowing us intimately and yet still loves us – always has – always will. Read Psalm 139 it will make you smile or cringe?

Romans 4:15-16 “Jesus was tempted in all the way possible for us to be tempted but did not sin, so let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

*17* -19 “Therefore prepare yourself and arise,
And speak/ or do/ or be/ to them all that I command you.
Do not be dismayed before their faces,
Lest I dismay you before them.
**18**For behold, I have made you this day
A fortified city and an iron pillar,
And bronze walls against the whole land—
Against the kings of Judah,
Against its princes,
Against its priests,
And against the people of the land.
**19**They will fight against you,
But they shall not prevail against you.
For I *am* with you,” says the Lord, “to deliver you.”

**Do I have the freedom to just fly ???????????????**

**Do you…………..**

Psalm 71:1-6

In You, O Lord, I put my trust;
Let me never be put to shame.
**2**Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape;
Incline Your ear to me, and save me.
**3**Be my [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+71%3A1-6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-14980a)]strong refuge,
To which I may resort continually;
You have given the commandment to save me,
For You *are* my rock and my fortress.

**4**Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked,
Out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.
**5**For You are my hope, O Lord God;
*You are* my trust from my youth.
**6**By You I have been [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+71%3A1-6&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-14983b)]upheld from birth;
You are He who took me out of my mother’s womb.
My praise *shall be* continually of You.

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)