



Building a Better Covenant

(Deciding to Be Free)

Easter Sunday

April 21, 2019

Big Question: How long have you lived in the same bondages?

Side Question: Have you ever been really happy and free?

I. Why We Can Be Free (Matthew 28:5-8, NKJV)

1. Your freedom is tied to his death

- 5 But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

2. Your freedom is tied to his resurrection

- 6 He is not here; for He is **risen**, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

3. Your freedom is tied to your response to his resurrection

- 7 And **go quickly** and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”⁸ So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

II. Three Decisions You Must Make To Be Free

1. You must decide to be **free** (Believe God’s strategy for living a good life is better than yours)
2. You must decide to **repent** (You must change your mind about the way you live life, marriage, etc.)
3. You must decide to **change today** (Declare that your freedom starts today, right now, not later)

III. Three Reasons We Should be Free (Roman 6:5-6)

For if we have been **united** together in the likeness of His death, certainly **we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection**, knowing this, that **our old man was crucified** with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

1. We have **died** with Christ
2. We have **risen** with Christ at the resurrection
3. We have been **freed** from slavery to destructive behaviors

IV. Who Do You Know That Is Free? (Acts 3:1, KJV)

1. Do you know anyone who was bound all their life?

- **Acts 3:1** Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.² **And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily** at the gate of the temple which

is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; **3** Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.**4** And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

2. Do you know anyone who changed in one moment?

- **5** And he gave heed unto them, **expecting to receive something of them.****6** Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.**7** And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Question: Is this your moment?

3. Do you know someone who is free and leaping and praising God?

- **8** And he **leaping** up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, **walking**, and **leaping**, and **praising** God.**9** And all the people saw him walking and praising God: **10** And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

4. Who do you know that makes you believe God can work miracles?

- **11** And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, **all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.**
- **12** And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?**13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers,** hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

**IV. Four Decisions That Stop
People from Being Free**

1. Bad **money** decisions
2. Bad **sexual** decisions
3. Bad **relationship** decisions
4. Bad **vocational** or job decisions

Next Week: Building Better Choices (Volume 2)

- Better Money Choices (April 28th-May 26)
- Better Sexual Choices (What the Bible says about sex: June)
- Better Relationship Choices (When will my relationships get better? July)
- Better Vocational Choices (August)