

Loose Him and Let Him Go

Scripture:

John 11:43-44 "Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "*Lazarus, come forth!*"⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "*Loose him, and let him go.*"

Introduction:

Christ has the power and the authority to command the dead to "come forth". When He liberates a person from death and brings them into life, He expects us to get involved by loosing them and setting them free from that which would keep them crippled and unable to walk a successful Christian walk.

II Corinthians 6:1 "We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

We are called to work with Christ and to help one another. Today, not tomorrow is the proper time to get involved in helping the Body of Christ and also the heirs of salvation to come into full salvation.

I. Lazarus had received the Word of the Lord.

- A. He is still clothed in the garments of death. He was still wrapped in his grave clothes.
 - 1. Many today have received salvation but are still bound up with the former garments of death.
 - 2. The life-style of some who claim to be Christians is no different than it was before their salvation experience. Those are grave-clothes.
- B. Lazarus was able to have some movement but he was not free.
 - 1. He was able to get out of the grave but unable to remove the grave clothes.
 - 2. Most of us are able to do some things fairly well even though grave clothes keep us from being totally free.

II. The Lord involves His people in the ministry of deliverance.

Luke 10:2-9 "Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

- A. God is looking for those who will help to set others free.
- B. It won't always be easy.
- C. He wants us to depend on nothing but the Holy Spirit.
- D. Don't worry about masses. Find one to mentor and maybe God will send more.
- E. Know that your work is kingdom work.

III. How do we loose them?

- A. We loose them by encouraging them
I Thessalonians 3:1-3 "Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this."
- B. We loose them by instructing them.

I Timothy 4:6 *"If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed."*

C. We loose them by being an example to them.

I Timothy 4:12-16 *"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."*

D. We loose them by helping them.

Luke 10:30-37 *"Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."*

E. We loose them by sharing the gifts that God has given us.

I Corinthians 4:26 *"How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification."*

F. We loose them by praying for them.

Ephesians 6:18-19 *"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,"*

IV. **Responding to the call.**

Isaiah 6:8 *"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."*