

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Feb 11, 2018

“The Joy of Jubilee” Pastor Hall 8:15 & 9:30, Pastor Temple 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Is there anything that came up this past week in regard to the previous witness or application points that you would like to share? (Micah 6:1-8- Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God)
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- You may have heard the expressions “stuck in a rut” and “being in the groove” (credit- Tom Pace). How are they similar and different? How do others besides one’s self play a role in this?

Review the Sermon (20 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below. As you go through the discussion questions that follow, know that it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

Leviticus 25:8-19

⁸ “Count off seven sabbath years— seven times seven years— so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. ⁹ Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. ¹⁰ Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. ¹¹ The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. ¹² For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields. ¹³ “In this Year of Jubilee everyone is to

return to their own property.

¹⁴ “If you sell land to any of your own people or buy land from them, do not take advantage of each other. ¹⁵ You are to buy from your own people on the basis of the number of years since the Jubilee. And they are to sell to you on the basis of the number of years left for harvesting crops. ¹⁶ When the years are many, you are to increase the price, and when the years are few, you are to decrease the price, because what is really being sold to you is the number of crops. ¹⁷ Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your God. I am the LORD your God.

¹⁸ “Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land. ¹⁹ Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live there in safety.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- Every 50 years, the year of Jubilee was to be an occasion for the release of Hebrew slaves, the forgiveness of debts, and the return of family properties once lost as the soil was allowed to lie fallow for an additional year. What do you believe motivated the Lord to issue this decree to His people in Leviticus 25?
- Since no crops were to be cultivated in the 49th year (a soil fallow year) or in the 50th, the Year of Jubilee (2 years total), how would this be a faith stretching experience for God's people?
- How would knowing the Year of Jubilee is coming affect the outlook of those in poverty, in debt or in slavery, even if it was many years away?
- Sadly, there is no historical evidence of the requirements of the Year of Jubilee ever being followed. What values of the Year of Jubilee do you see present in Jesus' words in Luke 4:16-21 in his describing his own personal mission?

Personalize the Sermon (20 min)

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- The testimonies and worship leading with the Restorative Justice Ministries of Christ Church were present in all three services. How did the testimonies of Pam Allan and Radford Parnell speak to you?
- Pastor Michelle lifted up the words Atonement, Redemption, Reconciliation, and Restoration as integral components of this ministry in Christ and with each other. What do these words mean to you in your own walk of faith?
- In what ways has our sin made us all a prisoner or a slave at some time or another? (John 8:34-36)
- What is the nature of the kind of freedom that Christ offers?
- What role would Christ have us serve in helping others finding their freedom? How are the "givers" and "receivers" both blessed by God in ministry together?

Apply the Sermon (15-20 min)

- No matter how far we have gone awry with God, we can always repent and return (same word in Hebrew). As we approach the season of lent with Ash Wednesday this week, all are given the opportunity to repent and believe the gospel and lean into the life giving disciplines of the Lord. Would you be willing to adopt personal spiritual practices for renewal that are shared in the worship guide each Sunday?
- Do you have other ideas about how you would like to grow in the Lord this Lenten season?
- The "Freedom Walk" is a tour of the ministry from the "inside" that is offered once a month, on the second Thursdays at 2pm or 7pm. Would you be willing to learn more about what this ministry is about? (contact Betty at 832-755-7761)

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- Is there someone you know who appears to be disconnected from the church or Christian faith that God has placed in your life and given you opportunities to share your faith with? Would you be willing to share their name with the group to be in prayer for you and for them?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.