

Pushing Back the Darkness!

Part 17: "Now is the time for Salvation!"

Last week on PBTB... Pressing in to the practical aspects of PBTB!" Ps 147.3 Lk4.18 *With our story and compassion! W/the presents of the Holy Spirit! With the Word(s) of God!* "As He was sent into the world, so He sends us into it!" John 17.18 "As My Father has sent Me, even so, I now send you!" John 20.21

We know this MOR is not always easy but it's always worth it... *World order scoffs at us!* "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1Cor1:18 "To God we are the aroma of Christ; among those who are being saved the fragrance of life, to those who are perishing we are the smell of death." 2Cor2.15 *Mans "deeds" resist the light!* But if we realize we are sheep of a higher order... wise in our dealings with our loved ones... pure and simple in speaking to them... Always worth it/plant seeds/bear fruit of righteousness!

Took a look at the first two aspects of Jesus ministry... *Preaching the good news to the poor!* *Economically poor:* "New day here! I have come to transform life from the ground up!" *Soul-and-spirit poor:* Pushing back the superstitions that run rampant in world mind! "God is not your enemy! You have peace with Him! He is for you!" *Healing the brokenhearted!* Made a list, checked it twice... Determined to make a difference! The bruised, crushed and shattered hearts...

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." –Jesus

Isaiah 61.1-2 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and...[more]"

Luke 4:18-19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Luke 4:18-19 *"to preach (be the public crier, herald, publisher and proclaimer) deliverance (pardon and freedom) to the captives (speared, spear driven prisoners of war)..."* Taken from their loved ones... **Taken out of the flow of life...** Confined to "tight" spaces... Subjected to inhumane treatment... **Who doesn't feel burdened for those taken captive...? Jesus did and so do His "followers!"**

Taken captive by sin/lusts... "Falling into temptation and a snare and many hurtful lusts; drowning them, seducing them, piercing them thru with many sorrows!" 1T6.9-10 **Taken captive by error/rebellion...** "In meekness instruct those who oppose themselves, to see if God will give them the "compunction" (uneasiness of soul) to acknowledge the truth, that they might recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who takes them at his will!" 2T2.25,26 **Set for self-destruction...** "Your lusts set up strategies for self-destruction. You lust for fullness and have not. You kill for it but can't obtain it, you fight and war and yet fullness escapes you. You pray but don't receive it because you are focused on your lusty consumption!" Jam 4.1-3

To the captives of...

Sin/lusts/over-longings!
Covetousness/competitiveness!
Error/ignorance!
Fear/confusion/anxiety!
Anger/hate/vengeance!
Rebellion/self-rule/pride!
Sorrow/sadness/bereavement!
Isolation/aloneness!
Helplessness/hopelessness!
Apathy/dysfunction!
Entitlement/stagnation!
Darkness/blindness/deafness!

We say: "THE POWER OF SIN IS BROKEN, JESUS OVERCAME IT ALL!"

The Public Cry... "When we were in bondage to the beggarly elements of the world, at the right moment in time, God sent His Son, born of a woman, to redeem those who were captives to sin and to give them the adoption of the children of God and to set the Holy Spirit in their hearts whereby they can cry out, "Abba! Daddy! Father!" **Gal 4.3-6 *Anything but powerless now!***

"In the past you walked according to the customary ways of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air (the spirit now at work in the children of disobedience) and you lived your life by the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling its desires and mind; and you were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy because of His great love for us, even when we were dead in sins, brought us to life in Christ to sit together with Him in heavenly places so that in the ages to come He could show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus... *and now* we are His workmanship, created in Christ for the good works prepared for us to walk in... *and now* you are near Him... reconciled to God by His Cross... at peace with God having full access to Him by the Spirit!" **Ephesians 2.2-18**

"In the past you were not the people but are now the people of God. You had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Beloved, I beg you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; live your life honestly among the unsaved that, whereas they speak against you, they may by your good works, which they will see, glorify God in the day of visitation!" **1Peter 2.10-12**

"Being made free from sin (thru the Cross) you have become the servants of righteousness... to bear fruit unto holiness!" **R6.18ff** "Stand fast in the liberty of Christ that made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." **Gal 5.1** "If the Son has made you free, you will be free indeed." **J8.36**

Luke 4:18-19 "The recovering (restoration) of sight to the blind (obscured, as by smoke; opaqued: where no light can penetrate), to set at liberty (set apart for freedom) those that are bruised (crushed, shattered, disrupted and lacerated)..." Not, "Okay, freed, go your way now! Fare-thee-well!" But, "Okay, free now, here's My touch, My word(s), My Spirit, My love! Go, well, on your way!"

Luke 4:18-19 "To preach (be the public crier, herald, publisher and proclaimer) the acceptable (propitious: acceptable and favorable) year of the Lord." "Now" is the time of acceptance: of repentance, reconciliation... This is the time of visitation! "The Lord is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all would come to repentance..." **2Peter 3.9**

The Time of Acceptance... "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night comes, when no man can work. *As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*" **John 9.4,5** "My substance is to do the will of the One who sent Me and to finish His work. *Don't say there is still time to wait until we work, I say to you look on the fields, it's already time for the harvest!*" **J4**

"The Lord is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all would come to repentance..." 2Peter 3.9

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night! Everything will be changed! So be diligent and account the longsuffering of God as opportunity for salvation!" 2Pet 3.9

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night! Everything changes! So I must be diligent and account the longsuffering of God as opportunity for salvation!" 2Pet 3.9