



Mobile Prisons

Congregational Reading:

Numbers 11

¹And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.²And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched. ³And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them.

⁴And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? ⁵We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: ⁶But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

Numbers 14

¹And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

²And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

³And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? **were it not better for us to return into Egypt?**

⁴And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and **let us return into Egypt.**

Jeremiah 42

Text

Luke 4:18 (King James Version)

¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

2 Corinthians 3:17 (King James Version)

¹⁷Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Introduction: In a meeting this week our President recounted briefly two important events from Biblical history, one had to do with Noah and the Ark and the other with the Children of Israel being delivered from Egypt and desiring to return. He referred to three themes present in the process of getting the children of Israel from bondage in and to Egypt to the freedom and relationship to the Promise land. Those three themes are release, resistance and relationship. I may mention some examples of this in the message today and/or in bible study, after I have had more time to meditate and process how they affect us in a natural, spiritual and practical way. I don't have my notes today but I think he also referred to what I think was a lecture or book with this phrase "the prisons we choose to live inside". At any rate, that

stuck with me and replaced the message I had planned for today. So God's will be done and may we identify any prisons we are choosing to live in, accept deliverance with as little resistance as possible and cultivate a binding unwavering relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So far I have only been able to identify two types of prisons relative to spatial relationship, one is fixed and you can visit and leave or just pass by, the other is mobile and tends to go wherever you go.

I. Like Israel we were delivered from Bondage

- a. We were slaves to our passions – with an undeveloped ego and super ego the id reigned supreme
 - i. So in essence we truly were “ID –IOTS”
 - ii. We shut down intelligence, God and conscious in order to pay homage to the “god of instant gratification”
- b. Our task master was Satan and our instrument was “flesh”
- c. Our destination was hell
 - i. One day a Savior came and we believed He knew the way to deliverance and we heard His message and decided to follow Him
 - ii. But like the children of Israel we tend to remember the fun and good times, the pleasures of the world and the flesh and **discount** the pain and the suffering, the heartache and sometimes life destroying consequences – **the feeling of emptiness even in the land of plenty.**
 - iii. We tend to forget all the lies, the sneaking around, and the chances we had to take just for the temporary pleasure of enjoying “the melons and the leeks of Egypt”.
- d. Will you make it to the Promise Land or die wondering in the desert wishing to return to Egypt?
 - i. Egypt (the world of darkness) that has changed and you have changed, even if only in age
 - ii. Could you keep up?
 - iii. Would you really have to all this pleasure and fun as advertised?

II. The brick and mortar prison

- a. They are located in a particular place, usually in an area not readily accessible by the general public
 - i. In there you will find some of the general public's family members
 - 1. Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters, uncles and aunts, even grandpas and grandmas
 - 2. Some will find players from their past, players in their present and players for their future – you just never know
- b. Whatever is going on in these prisons or whoever is in these prisons has little or no daily impact on our lives.
 - i. We can visit, write letters, ignore them and just drive right by

III. That brings us to the Mobile Prisons

- a. These are the prisons we choose to live in daily, the bondage we choose to return to, and the ignorance we choose to embrace
- b. Through faith in Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness Colossians 1:12-14 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins**FOR MANY OF US THAT'S JUST SCRIPTURE AND NOT LIFE, SO THERE IS NO SENSE OF FREEDOM, SO WE CONTINUE TO EMBRACE THE DARKNESS**
- c. Let's review a short list of these prisons we walk around in daily, prisons that influence many areas of our life and decision-making.

- i. Hate - Love God and neighbor
- ii. Un-forgiveness – Forgive or God want forgive you
- iii. Stingy – give, could be an angel
- iv. Impatience – James, count it all joy
- v. Slothfulness – be about God’s business and yours
- vi. Uncleaness – Cleanse yourself from all filthiness of flesh and spirit II Cor. 7:1
- vii. Deception – 2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived
- viii. The greatest mobile prison of all is carried around in the head and heart of the true idiot – the one that doesn’t know but think they know what’s best for others – resist knowledge and reuse to understand, has made a mess of his or her life and tend to negatively affect the life of any one getting involved with him or her but this idiot thinks he or she is free and invites others to “follow me” 1Peter 2:19a While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption
- ix. Addictions – Be sober minded, let your moderation be known to all

Conclusion: In the brick and mortar prisons there are wardens and prison guards, razor wire fences, walls and armed security. It is not uncommon to see the compound with gun towers in strategic locations.

In the Mobile Prison with exception of the mentally ill, you are the WARDEN AND THE PRISON GUARD – THE RAZOR WIRE AND THE WALL – THE ARMED SECURITY AND THE GUN TOWERS...

EXCUSE ME!! - NOW WHO IS KEEPING YOU IN BONDAGE?

Stop the recidivism, the revolving door; you parole yourself or put yourself on probation but then refuse to monitor yourself, so you violate yourself and your commitment to God, break your promises to self and family and again long for Egypt. ALL BY CHOICE!

For Your Personal Reading

1 Corinthians 6:8-10 (King James Version)

8Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

9Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.